

AI as a companion for language-learner autonomy

- **Extensive reading and listening**
- **Opinions from students**
- **Why learner autonomy?**
- **Tools that are not ChatGPT and example exercises**

Extensive reading and listening

Extensive reading

(Free Voluntary Reading)

Extensive reading (Free Voluntary Reading)

“Free voluntary reading can be easily defined: It is reading that is selected by the reader, that is read for its own sake. It is, in other words, reading because you want to: FVR does not require book reports or comprehension questions at the end of the chapter.”

Extensive listening

Extensive Listening: Why and How?

Intensive Listening v. Extensive Listening

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class listening • Teacher-selected texts • Shorter texts (2-5 m) • Teacher-managed sequence of tasks • Focus on main ideas, details, inferences, developing listening skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-class listening • Student-selected passages • Longer texts (15+ m) • Co-managed sequence of tasks • Focus on main ideas, personal reactions, metacognition • Can focus on cultural issues, grammar, pronunciation |
|---|--|

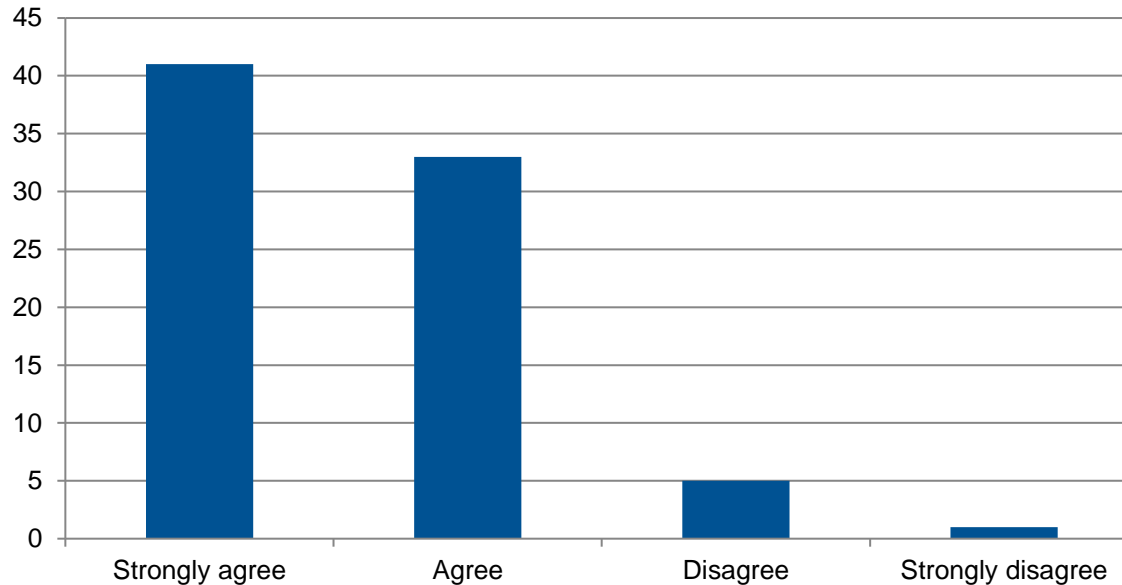


Opinions from students on AI in language-learning

80 participants across 8 classes

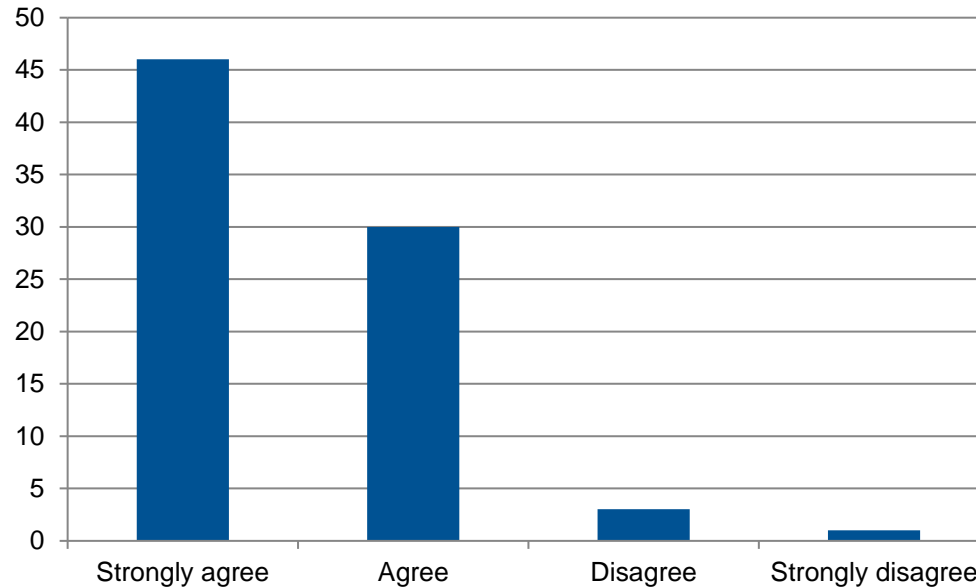
How strongly do you agree with the following statement?

"Watching media in another language improves my skills in that language even if I am not consciously trying to learn while watching."



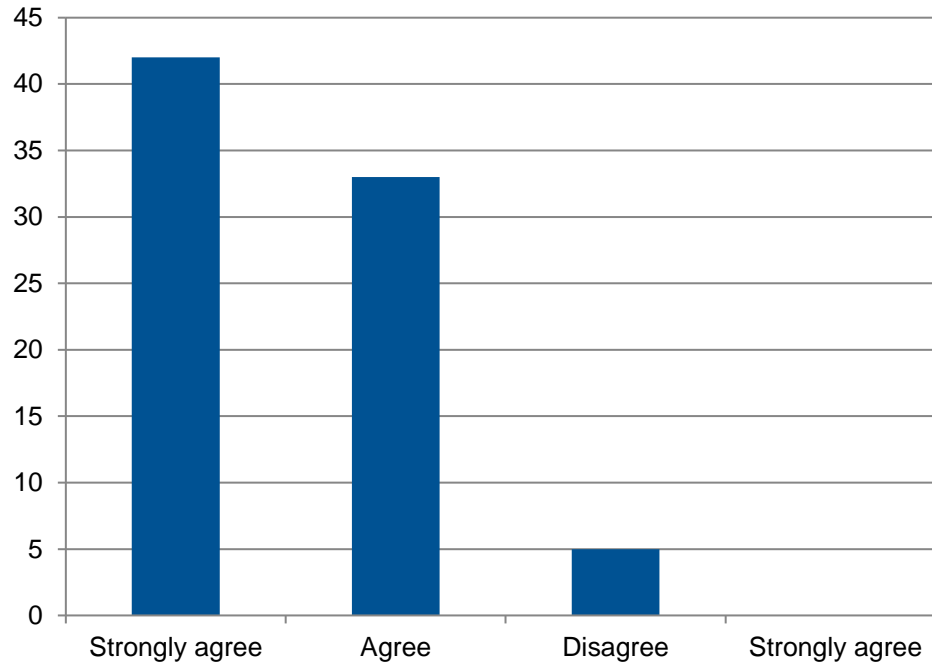
How strongly do you agree with the following statement?

"Reading media in another language improves my skills in that language even if I am not consciously trying to learn while reading."



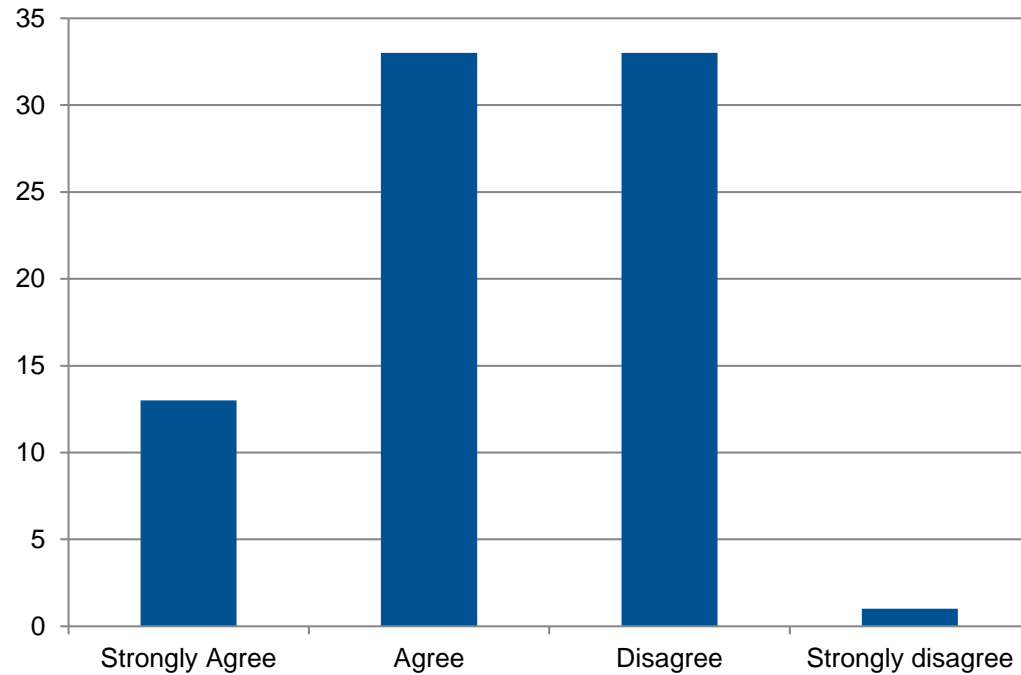
How strongly do you agree with the following statement?

"Listening to media in another language improves my skills in that language even if I am not consciously trying to learn while listening."



How strongly do you agree with the following statement?

"AI allows students to learn a language more independently."



**“What do language teachers
need to know about how
students use AI?”**

The primary use: quick correction of texts / extracts

- "use it as a correction and as an assistance when it comes to writing"

Students' use of AI is exaggerated

- "That AI use is not as common for learning a language as many might think, it's mainly used for translating short paragraphs or documents and probably nothing more"

Enthusiasm

- "They need to know that sometimes AI helps them structure their work and pushes them to do better, not only does the work for them"

The need to use AI responsibly

- "AI is only useful if you have a general idea of the subject/language and can judge its accuracy, otherwise AI doesn't really help too much if you don't know whether or not the information it provides is correct."

The overall impression

“Language teachers should embrace the positive aspects of AI in language education while also guiding students on responsible and effective use. Balancing the benefits of AI with traditional language learning methods can lead to a well-rounded and enriching educational experience.”

Why learner autonomy?

Focused mode

- Intent focus on a problem
- Working memory making connections with neurons of the neocortex and hippocampus

Diffuse mode

- Working memory is at rest
- Background processing helps form neural links that are not made in focused mode



Focused mode

Diffuse mode

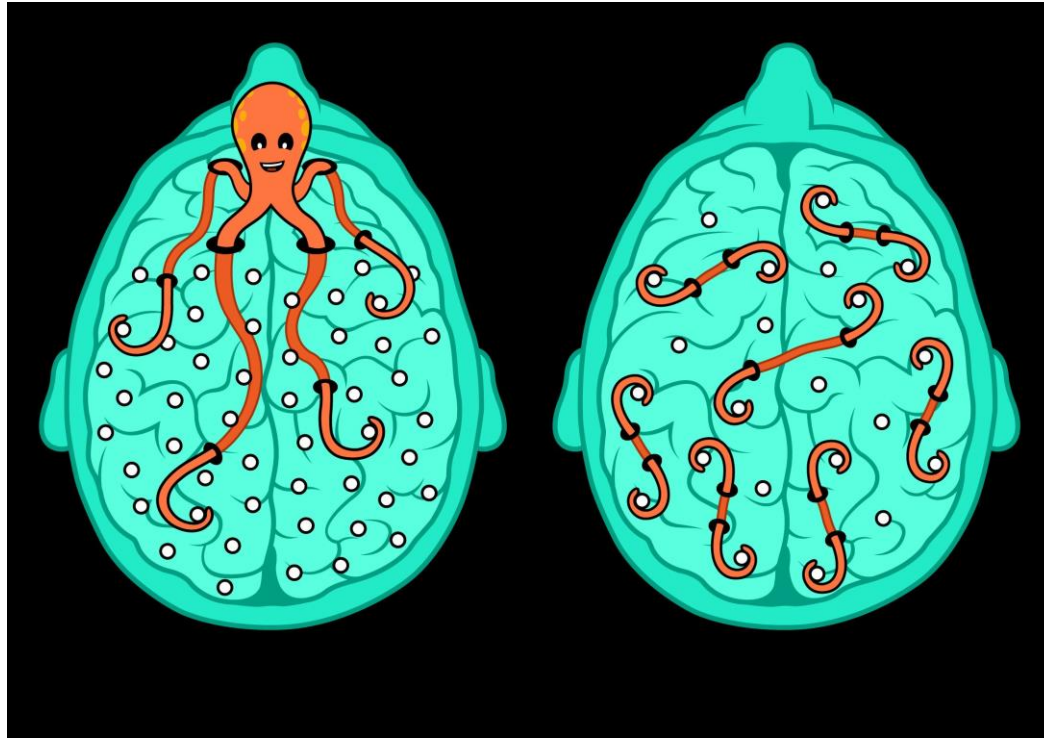


Image from:
barbaraoakley.com

- We can encourage diffuse mode through extensive reading / listening / watching

For the following exercise, tick all that apply:

**I would use this
exercise with my
students.**

**I would use not
this exercise.**

**I have a better
exercise that
uses AI.**

**I have a better
exercise that
does not use AI.**

Diffuse reading practice



Tool(s): Chatbot

Learning mode(s): Diffuse

Memory type trained: Procedural

Skills(s): Extensive reading, writing

Search for a text online that you want to read and discuss. Once you have read the text, copy the contents and paste them into ChatGPT with the following instruction:

Pretend you are [insert your choice of person here]. Let's discuss the contents of this text. Ask me questions about my opinions on its contents. And when I ask you questions, answer as if you are [insert your choice of person here].

Bring screenshots of your chat to class for discussion next week.

Declarative memory

- Facts that can be consciously taught and recalled
- Put into long-term memory by retrieval practice

Procedural memory

- Knowledge of *how to do* something
- Strengthened by practice and rest

For the following exercise, tick all that apply:

**I would use this
exercise with my
students.**

**I would use not
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**I have a better
exercise that
uses AI.**

**I have a better
exercise that
does not use AI.**

Declarative grammar practice



Tool(s): Chatbot

Learning mode(s): Diffuse (mindful extensive reading)

Memory type trained: Procedural, declarative

Skills(s): Extensive reading, speaking

Put the following prompt into ChatGPT or another ChatBot of your choosing, and fill in the gaps with your own preferences:

I am going to explain the [insert grammar topic here] in English to you. Pretend you are a student of the language and ask me questions about my explanation.

For the following exercise, tick all that apply:

**I would use this
exercise with my
students.**

**I would use not
this exercise.**

**I have a better
exercise that
uses AI.**

**I have a better
exercise that
does not use AI.**

Procedural grammar practice



Tool(s): Chatbot

Learning mode(s): Diffuse (mindful extensive reading)

Memory type trained: Procedural, declarative

Skills(s): Extensive reading, speaking

Put the following prompt into ChatGPT or another ChatBot of your choosing, and fill in the gaps with your own preferences:

Write a short [insert genre here] story about [insert topic here] in German that uses the [insert grammatical structure here] a lot. Make the story suitable for someone with a German level of [insert German level here].

If there is anything in the story you don't understand, ask the chatbot to explain it to you. Bring your story to class next week as we will talk about it in the lesson.

Working memory

- *Hiker learners* and *race-car learners*
- The need for differentiated learning
- *The master trickster*

Long-term memory

- Strengthened by retrieval practice

Anki

8:53 68%

Gràmar 1
1 minute left

0 0 10

Chan fhaca mi na rinn e. Vs Chan fhaca me dè rinn e.

The latter means you don't know.

< 10 min Again	2 d Hard	1.7 mo Good	3.3 mo Easy
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For the following exercise, tick all that apply:

**I would use this
exercise with my
students.**

**I would use not
this exercise.**

**I have a better
exercise that
uses AI.**

**I have a better
exercise that
does not use AI.**

Retrieval practice for long-term memory

Tool(s): ChatBot

Learning mode(s): Focused (primary), Diffuse (secondary)

Memory type trained: Declarative, long-term

Skill(s): vocabulary-building, reading, writing

Part 1:

Paste the vocabulary list into ChatGPT along with the following instruction: Test me on this list, one word at a time, asking me to give the English translation. If I get the translation correct, remove the word from the list. If I get it wrong, test me on it again once we have gone through the other words on the list.

Part2:

Once you have finished part 1, give ChatGPT the following instruction:

Now test me on the list by asking me to give the Gaelic translations of the English words. Again, remove a word from the list if I get it right. If I get it wrong, test me on the word again once we have finished going through all the other words on the list. Keep doing this until I get the word right.

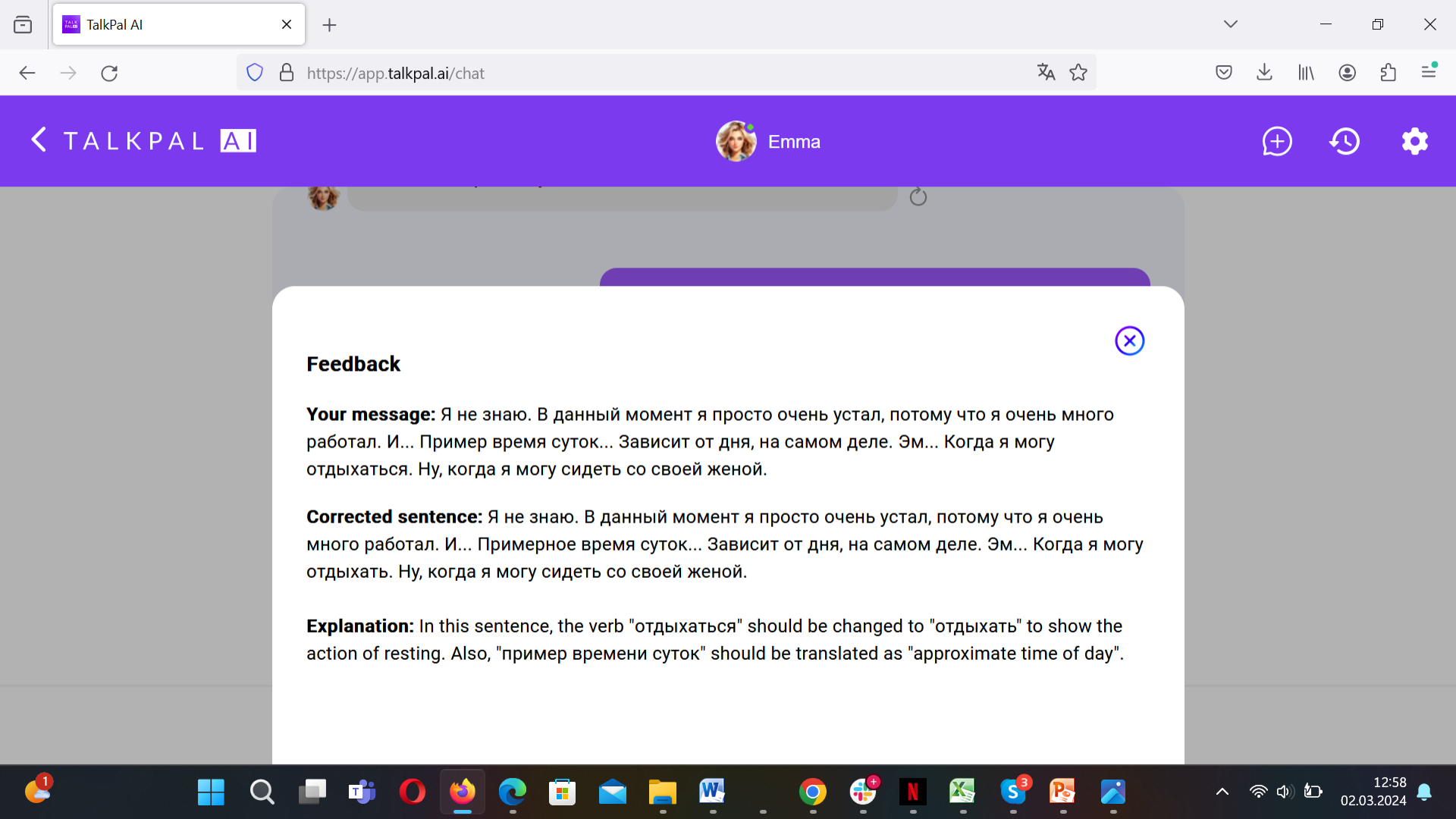
N.B. ChatGPT might have to be reminded of the task.

Other tools and example exercises

Chatbots with speaking abilities

Hey! Ich bin Emma, Ihr persönlicher KI -Sprachlehrer. Fragen Sie mich etwas oder klicken Sie unten auf ein Thema:

- Spaß
- Interessant
- Du entscheidest



Feedback

Your message: Я не знаю. В данный момент я просто очень устал, потому что я очень много работал. И... Пример время суток... Зависит от дня, на самом деле. Эм... Когда я могу отдыхаться. Ну, когда я могу сидеть со своей женой.

Corrected sentence: Я не знаю. В данный момент я просто очень устал, потому что я очень много работал. И... Примерное время суток... Зависит от дня, на самом деле. Эм... Когда я могу отдыхать. Ну, когда я могу сидеть со своей женой.

Explanation: In this sentence, the verb "отдыхаться" should be changed to "отдыхать" to show the action of resting. Also, "пример времени суток" should be translated as "approximate time of day".

Gemini



Gemini wurde gerade aktualisiert. [Aktualisierung anzeigen](#)

F Hast du Deutsch? Nee, kannst du Deutsch habe ich gesagt.



✦ Ja, ich kann Deutsch. Ich bin ein großes Sprachmodell von Google AI, das auf einem riesigen Datensatz von Text und Code trainiert wurde. Ich kann Text generieren, Sprachen übersetzen, verschiedene Arten von kreativen Inhalten schreiben und deine Fragen auf informative Weise beantworten.

Deine Anfrage "Hast du Deutsch? Nee, kannst du Deutsch habe ich gesagt." verstehe ich als eine scherzhafte Frage, ob ich Deutsch sprechen kann. Die Antwort darauf ist "Ja, ich kann Deutsch."

Prompt hier eingeben  

Gemini zeigt möglicherweise fehlerhafte Informationen an, z. B. zu Personen. Überprüfe daher die Antworten. [Datenschutz & Gemini-Apps](#)



Gemini wurde gerade aktualisiert. [Aktualisierung anzeigen](#)

- 你来自哪里? (Nǐ lái zì nǎlǐ?) - Woher kommst du?
- 你喜欢做什么? (Nǐ xǐhuan zuò shénme?) - Was machst du gerne?
- 你对人工智能有什么看法? (Nǐ duì rén gōng zhì néng yǒu shénme kànfa?) - Was hältst du von künstlicher Intelligenz?

Du kannst mir auch Fragen zu anderen Themen stellen. Ich werde mein Bestes tun, um sie zu beantworten.

Bitte lass mich wissen, wenn du Fragen hast oder wenn ich etwas falsch gemacht habe.

Ich freue mich darauf, mit dir auf Chinesisch zu sprechen!

Michael Forschungen



Gemini zeigt möglicherweise fehlerhafte Informationen an, z. B. zu Personen. Überprüfe daher die Antworten. [Datenschutz & Gemini-Apps](#)

Take notes to answer the questions on the exercise to follow.

Does the task primarily engage declarative memory or procedural memory?

Does the task primarily engage focused mode or diffuse mode?

Example in-class exercise



N.B. You can modify the following task for level by requiring students to use a shorter video, giving them a choice of videos suitable for their level, etc.

In pairs, go to [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) and look at the headlines. Without clicking on the articles, choose topics and discuss what you know about each. Once you have discussed each topic, ask Emma from TalkPal AI what she knows about the topic. Compare Emma's answers with your own and discuss any feedback she gives you on your speech. Repeat this process for each topic on [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com).

Take notes to answer the questions on the exercise to follow.

Does the task primarily engage declarative memory or procedural memory?

Does the task primarily engage focused mode or diffuse mode?

Example homework exercise

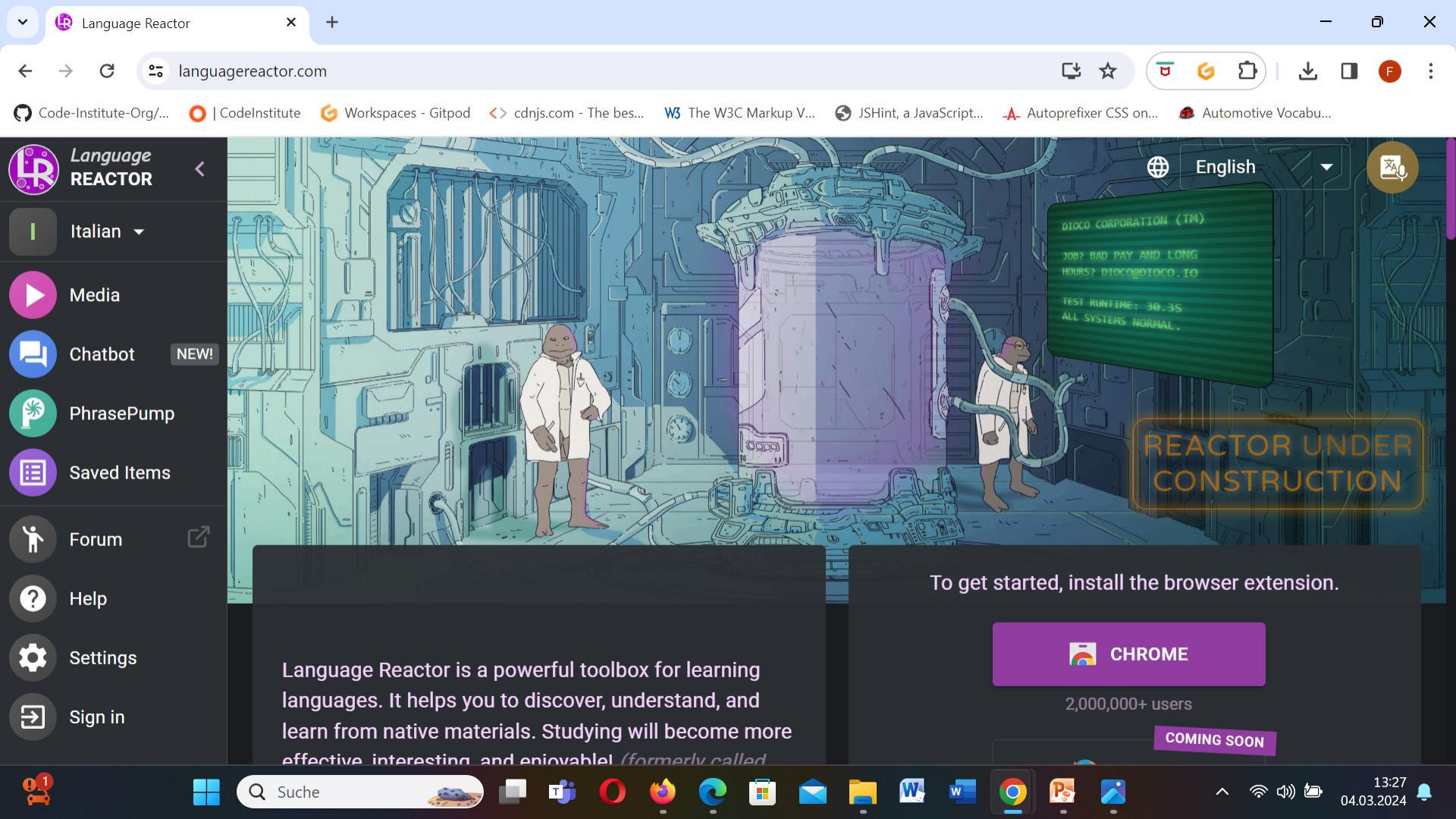


N.B. You can modify the following task for level by requiring students to use a shorter video, giving them a choice of videos suitable for their level, etc.

***Part 1:** Use YouTube filters to find a video of around 10 minutes that you want to watch. As you watch write down three issues from the video that you want to discuss.*

***Part 2:** Discuss those themes with Emma from TalkPal AI for ten minutes. Screenshot the feedback / corrections you receive and bring them to class next week.*

Language Reactor



DIOCO CORPORATION (TM)
JOB? BAD PAY AND LONG
HOURS? DIOCO@DIOCO.TO
TEST RUNTIME: 30-35
ALL SYSTEMS NORMAL.

REACTOR UNDER
CONSTRUCTION

Language Reactor is a powerful toolbox for learning languages. It helps you to discover, understand, and learn from native materials. Studying will become more effective, interesting, and enjoyable. (formerly called

To get started, install the browser extension.

CHROME

2,000,000+ users

COMING SOON

molto bene ma lei è anche spigliata fa queste battute tra sé e sé che fanno

sehr gut, aber sie ist auch locker Diese Witze machen sie sich selbst

Untertitel Wörter Gespeichert

sicuramente lo rileggerò dopo aver letto l'idiota e recupererò questo questo

aspetto e poi in verde invece ho messo la personalità di Celine perché Celine è una personalità estremamente intrigante un personaggio Secondo me costruito molto bene ma lei è anche spigliata fa queste battute tra sé e sé che fanno morire A volte fa delle uscite che un po' buffe un po' tipo quando dice Lei odia comprare le scarpe no le odia le detesta perché ha un piede molto grande rispetto a la normalità tra tantissime virgolette Poi parleremo anche di normalità e e praticamente queste scarpe



una personalità estrem
un personaggio Seco
eine äußerst faszinierende
Meinung nach ein konst

sicuramente
sicherlich, bestimmt, gewiss

sicuramente
bestimmt
(other) sicherlich, gewiss

Beispiele: Aktueller Text

pensando ad altre cose e fa fatica sicuramente a comunicare le sue emozioni

alcune cose vengono ripetute allo stremo in più sicuramente il protagonista ha un

di una società capitalista che sicuramente vuole essere messa in

sicuramente lo rileggerò dopo aver letto l'idiota e recupererò questo questo

leggere sicuramente molto a fuoco proseguo

Re Po Gl Wi Ba ⓘ

✓ 📖 ⌛ tags >> ⓘ

Unteritel Wörter Gespeichert

sicuramente lo rileggerò dopo aver letto l'idiota e recupererò questo questo

aspetto e poi in verde invece ho messo la personalità di Celine perché Celine è

una personalità estremamente intrigante un personaggio Secondo me costruito

molto bene ma lei è anche spigliata fa queste battute tra sé e sé che fanno

morire A volte fa delle uscite che un po' buffe un po' tipo quando dice Lei

odia comprare le scarpe no le odia le detesta perché ha un piede molto grande

rispetto a la normalità tra tantissime virgolette Poi parleremo anche di


normalità e e praticamente queste scarpe



→ | **Script**

Per tutte
Dai.
Ti aspet
Quando
Arrivo.
Grazie!
Brava!
Braviss
Brava, L
Grazie,

Untertitel Wörter Gespeichert

Unten finden Sie Wörter aus dem aktuellen Video, sortiert nach Frequenz. 

- Klicke mit der rechten Maustaste auf ein Wort, um es zu speichern.
- Klicke mit der linken Maustaste, um das Wörterbuch zu öffnen.

OK

Wortschatzlevel einstellen

Rank 1 - 100

il di essere uno a e che avere
in non per questo fare da potere
con ci lo si mi ma come andare
tutto

cosa se su dire più mio stare
quello dovere ti volere perché molto
anche sapere vedere tuo quindi o
qui solo bene così suo

si io altro ora quando no pensare
me venire ne tu te prendere anno

Language REACTOR

Italian

Media

Chatbot **NEW!**

PhrasePump

Saved Items

Forum

Help

Settings

Sign in

EDIT

AP 1x   

TEXT WORDS

 Raspadori ha superato tutti in velocità ribadendo in rete l'iniziale errore di Osimhen su calcio di rigore.	Raspadori surpassed everyone in speed by repeating Osimhen's initial mistake on penalty kicks.
I replay del gol vittoria del Napoli contro la Juventus svelano la nuova strategia dal dischetto della squadra di Calzona.	The replay of Napoli's winning goal against Juventus reveals the new strategy from Calzona's team disc.
Raspadori supera in velocità in pochi metri Alex Sandro, Bremer e Nongé, ma accade perché la sua è una lunga rincorsa che gli consente di arrivare prima di tutti sul pallone.	Raspadori surpasses in speed by a few meters Alex Sandro, Bremer and Nongé, but it happens because his is a long race that allows him to get ahead of everyone on the ball.
Perché Raspadori supera tutto:	Because Raspadori is superior to everything:



Language REACTOR

Italian ▾

Media

Chatbot **NEW!**

PhrasePump

Saved Items

Forum ↗

Help

Settings

Sign in

EDIT

AP 1x   

TEXT WORDS

SET VOCABULARY LEVEL

1 - 100:

il di essere uno a e che avere in da potere con lo si ma come tutto su quello
 perché anche suo altro poco nuovo prima

101 - 200:


arrivare nessuno diverso qualche mentre

201 - 300:

pronto lungo contro

- Language REACTOR
- Italian
- Media
- Chatbot **NEW!**
- PhrasePump
- Saved Items
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- Help
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- Sign in

Experimental Preview! [Discuss on forum.](#) :)



Hi, I'm Aria, a virtual conversation partner.

If you don't know to say something in Italian, you can write it in English.

What would you like to talk about?

ESC | Your message | [Microphone icon] | [Send icon]

Language REACTOR

- Italian ▾
- Media
- Chatbot** NEW!
- PhrasePump
- Saved Items
- Forum ↗
- Help
- Settings
- Sign in

AP 1x

Experimental Preview! [Discuss on forum.](#) :)

What would you like to talk about?



Famous People



Psychologist



Games



Situations



Just Aria



Your message

Language REACTOR

- Italian ▾
- Media
- Chatbot **NEW!**
- PhrasePump
- Saved Items
- Forum ↗
- Help
- Settings
- Sign in

+ NEW CHAT AP 1x ⚙️ 🗑️

Experimental Preview! [Discuss on forum.](#) :)

TEXT WORDS

Ciao, voglio un'avventura. Hey, I want an adventure.

Oh, mi piace! Oh, I like it!

Bene, avventura prevede davvero molta attività. Well, adventure does involve a lot of activity.

Dovremmo forse iniziare con questo esercizio: Maybe we should start with this exercise:

"Story Racer", un gioco di narrativa in tempo reale. "Story Racer", a game of real-time narrative.

ESC Your message 🎤 ➡️

For the following exercise, discuss each question:

How could the task be improved?

What could go wrong with the task?

Example in-class exercise

Part 1: *Work with a partner. Go to <https://www.bbc.com/> and choose an article that you are both interested in. Read the article until you find five words that you think frequency range of 4000 +. Compare your answers with your partner.*

Part 2: *Copy the text and paste it into the My Text function of Language Reactor to check whether you were correct.*

For the following exercise, discuss each question:

How could the task be improved?

What could go wrong with the task?

Example homework task



Using Language Reactor, watch a video of your own choosing on either Netflix or YouTube. Take screenshots of three phrases / structures the speakers use that you think would be useful for your classmates to know. You will present your findings in groups during the next lesson.

Text-to-speech tools

AI Text to Speech

NaturalReader

The #1 text to speech solution for personal, commercial, and educational use

Italian ▾



Diego



Isabella



Elsa



1.08x



+ Add Files

Library

Account

Apps

AI Voice Generator >

Android & iOS



LOGIN / SIGN UP

UPGRADE

Digitate, incollate e modificate il testo qui.

Natural Reader è un programma professional qualsiasi testo scritto in parole parlate.

Natural Reader supporta più di 20 formati di book e persino immagini. È possibile tornare aggiungere nuovi file.

Abbiamo abbonamenti sia gratuiti che a soddisfare le esigenze di utenti diversi con include funzioni esclusive e l'uso delle voci Plus. Le voci Plus consentono un text to speech fluido e l'intonazione delle voci umane.

Gli utenti gratuiti possono provare le voci Prer Plus per 5 minuti al giorno. Oppure possono utilizzare illimitatamente tutte le voci Free disponibili.

Select Speed

1.08x (195 WPM)



5x (900 wpm)

4x (720 wpm)

3x (540 wpm)

2x (360 wpm)

1x (180 wpm)

.28x (50 wpm)



onverte
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mento Plus
re e avanzate.
uce i modelli
orno e le voci

+ Add Files

Library

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Apps

AI Voice Generator >

Android & iOS



LOGIN / SIGN UP

UPGRADE

00:04 1.08x 01:31

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Take notes to answer the questions on the exercise to follow.

Does the task primarily engage declarative memory or procedural memory?

Does the task primarily engage focused mode or diffuse mode?

Example in-class exercise



Part 1: *Work with a partner. Go to <https://www.bbc.com/> and choose an article that you are both interested in. Take turns reading paragraphs out loud. After each paragraph, analyse where you think the intonation should rise and fall. Read two paragraphs each.*

Part 2: *Go to <https://www.naturalreaders.com> and choose a reader to read the same four paragraphs that you and your partner read. As you listen, note where the speaker's intonation rises and falls. Once you have listened, discuss with your partner the extent to which the intonation patterns matched those you decided on in part 1.*

Take notes to answer the questions on the exercise to follow.

Does the task primarily engage declarative memory or procedural memory?

Does the task primarily engage focused mode or diffuse mode?

Example homework exercise



N.B. You can modify the following task for level by only requiring students to use a smaller extract from the article, allowing them to translate it for comprehension with DeepL, etc.

Search online for an article on a subject that you are interested in. Copy the text then go the Natural Reader and have two different speakers read the text. In class next week, tell your fellow students in groups:

- *What was your article about?*
- *Which speaker did you prefer? Why?*
- *Did the speakers pronounce any of the words differently to how you expected?*