



Online language tuition has grown in stature over the past 5 years. With the advances in e-based technologies such as the various messenger services and faster internet connections, online language lessons are now proving to be a very popular alternative to the traditional classroom based or one-to-one language teaching.

People learn languages for a variety of reasons. Some do it for their careers, for travel, interest or simply for fun. Whatever the reason it is undeniable that learning a language is becoming increasingly important due to globalization. Countries and cultures are being brought closer together through transportation technology, economic migration and the evolution of the interdependent world economy. Languages are critical for cross cultural communication.

Most people wanting to learn a foreign language will go to a language school, evening classes or get a private teacher. This 'traditional' form of language tuition has long been considered to be the best way to learn a language. The main reason for it being so has been the interaction with the teacher.

Now new advances in technology are stripping away that need for physical closeness with a language teacher and are offering modern alternatives to learning a language.

E-learning is the process of learning a language online. This means all interaction takes places on the internet without the need for physical proximity. Using webcams, messenger services

and other e-based technologies teachers and students are now able to interact just as effectively and carry out language lessons.

Traditionalists will accuse the lessons of being ineffective gimmicks, yet upon closer analysis online language tuition could prove to be of great benefit to learners and teachers. The main benefits online language tuition provides are:

Flexibility: many people want to learn languages yet can not commit to regular times every week either due to personal or work commitments. Sometimes the learner may simply be too tired to attend a lesson. Online language lessons allow the learner to take lessons when they want and where they want.

Access: for those wanting language lessons that may live in areas where access to language schools or teachers is poor, online language tuition provides them with contact to teachers from all over the world. Many people in rural areas may have to travel hours to get to a language school, while others such as the disabled or single parents cannot leave the house easily. Online language tuition gives everyone access to lessons.

One on One Lessons: some people find group lessons either daunting or frustrating. Many people are too shy to talk in front of others, so lose out on vital practice. Others want too much individual attention but find the teacher does not have enough time to address their needs. Online language tuition provides the learner with complete one on one language lessons.

Security: parents may love the idea of their children learning a new language yet loath sending them out to evening classes or inviting strangers to their homes. Online languages tuition allows parents to give their children language lessons in the security of their own homes and under the supervision.

Home Comforts: many of us enjoy our home comforts and would prefer to have language lessons on the sofa with a cup of coffee rather than in a cold classroom sat on a hard wooden chair. Being in safe, comfortable surroundings allows the learner to relax, concentrate and give 100% to their language lessons.

All the signs point to online language tuition growing in popularity as learners continue to experience the positives it offers them. As with most areas of personal lives, the shift in recent decades has been towards convenience and ease. Language learning is simply the latest area where these two priorities are becoming demanded by users.