

MEMBERS ONLY

2018



MAY 05

INNER CIRCLE

THIS MONTH

THE EASIEST WAY TO START
WRITING & IMPROVE ON YOUR OWN

innovative LANGUAGE.COM

Work for a goal you can reach solo



Welcome to the Inner Circle, Listeners.

Last time, you learned...

- The 10 habits of highly effective language learners.

By the way, I keep a similar cheat sheet of the habits we mentioned last time on my desk. And, while I didn't reach my speaking goal — my teacher was unavailable — this month did not go to waste.

I did put these habits to work for a goal you can reach solo....

Writing.

In this Inner Circle, you'll discover:

- 1. How I started writing daily with the Daily Dose App**
- 2. How to practice writing lessons on your own**

Now you might be asking...

Why focus on writing?



First, writing is a skill you can practice anywhere, anytime, by yourself. But there's another reason behind it: I was inspired. See, one of my friends is learning Japanese right now. I'd say he's at an intermediate level. And every day, he posts on Facebook or Instagram in Japanese. His grammar is not always perfect, but that's not important.

What's important is... He keeps it up every single day.

And every day, tons of his Japanese friends comment on it.

I kind of wished I had done that when I was learning Japanese. And since I'm learning French now, I realized it wasn't too late. So, my friend also inspired me to write in French.

The Easiest Way to Start Writing & Improve on Your Own

You already know this: With all of my languages, I always start with speaking first. Why? I want to be able to speak with natives, so I make that my goal. And, writing? Well, writing is not high up on my list of things to do. I didn't even set goals for writing in French for this month.

But with no teacher, and being inspired by my friend's daily writing, I decided to steal his approach. Posting on Facebook works well for my friend who lives in Japan. He has lots of Japanese friends. But, I don't have many French friends to comment. Plus I'm a beginner who is not used to writing. I needed a simpler routine.

Before I reveal the tools you can use, you should know the tactic first.

If you're a beginner the easiest way to start writing is to:

Write out sentences by hand. Just copy them out.

Literally, take out a pen and paper and write things out. Now, you're thinking "writing things out? That sounds a little old and outdated." Trust me, there is a huge benefit to this — there's no thinking and no worrying about what to write. It's all there for me. I just copy out FrenchPod101 lesson conversations.

But, yes, you have a fair point. And, I have a more modern study tool to keep me writing daily.

1

How I started writing daily with the Daily Dose App

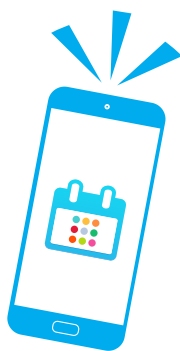
I'm using our Daily Dose of language app for the Android, iPhone and iPad. It's a free app that sends you a quick, 1 minute lesson every day. It covers a wide range- grammar, vocab, culture- but you learn a little bit of language in each one. Each lesson comes with words and sample sentences in your target language.

I use it for 2 reasons. First, the app is designed to remind you to study every day. This helps me write daily. And second, I get beginner level sentences I can write out.

My Daily Routine

How do I incorporate this into my day?

- I get a reminder from the app.
- I open up the lesson and read through it.
- I copy out the sentence for that day into a notebook.
- Done.



It's dead-simple. The daily reminder keeps me on track. Without it I would forget. Just the reminder makes the daily dose app a powerful learning tool.

You may wonder why I'm focusing on sentences and not words.

With sentences, you're exposed to a ton more words, you learn grammar indirectly, and you get actual lines you can use elsewhere. Every day, I copy out a sentence into a notebook. And I rewrite it a few times over for extra practice. This hands-on approach works well, and it feels like actual practice. It's not passive learning. When you just watch a video or listen in class, it's hard to know if things will stay in your head. When you are actively putting in the work, you know they will.

Now let's jump into the second part of the Inner Circle.

2

How to Practice Writing with Our Lessons on Your Own

So, how do you do this?

How can you start writing with our lessons and learning program?

Here are some tactics you can steal for yourself.

A) Write out the phrases, sentences and even conversations by hand.

One of the best ways to improve your writing is just to write more. Take every word, phrase and sentence that you learn in the lessons and write them out by hand.

You can write out the conversations in the Dialog Study Tool, example sentences from the lesson notes, words and phrases from our vocabulary lists, or even words and sentences from the Daily Dose App and the Word of the Day.

B) Write short sentences to your Premium *PLUS* teacher

If you're a Premium *PLUS* member, write out a message and send it to your Premium *PLUS* teacher for review. In fact, as a first step, all new Premium *PLUS* users must write a self-introduction and send it to their teachers.

Your teacher will review your work, send you feedback and corrections, and help you improve your writing skills fast! You can even write something out by hand, take a picture of it, and send it to your teacher.





C) Leave a comment on the lessons



You can do this if you're a Premium or Premium *PLUS* member. Leave a comment after you're done with a lesson and be sure to use what you've learned - whether it's a new word or a grammar point. Our teachers will review it and give you feedback

D) Dictation. This may be best for advanced learners.

Dictation is a study method where you write down what you hear as a way to test both your writing AND listening skills. You can do this with any one of our audio and video lessons.



E) Create sentences using newly learned words

You can learn new words with our Lessons, the Word of the Day, the Vocab Lists and the Core 2,000 Word List - which gives you the 2,000 most frequently used words.

You can also leave a comment with the sentence, and our teacher will review it.

F) Take the Writing Quizzes

With every lesson, you get review quizzes to help you master what you've learned. Just scroll down to the Vocabulary Section, or click on Vocabulary, and click "Take a Quiz."



And that's it!

Now for my next month's goal. I'll aim for 7 minutes of conversation... again!

And, this time, I'll write out 1 conversation a day for the FrenchPod101 lessons that I take.

The deadline is June 30th.

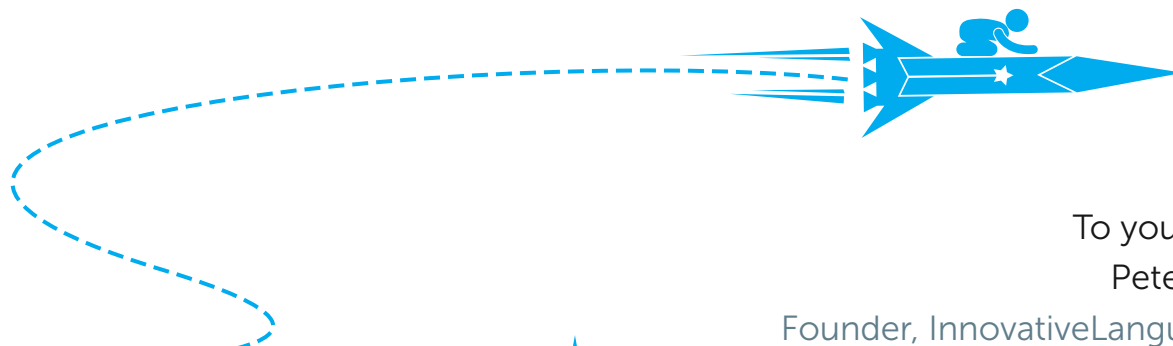
How about you? What's your small, measurable monthly goal?
And what's the deadline?

Let me know what your goals are for the month.

Shoot me an email at

inner.circle@innovativelanguage.com

See you next month!



To your fluency,
Peter Galante
Founder, InnovativeLanguage.com