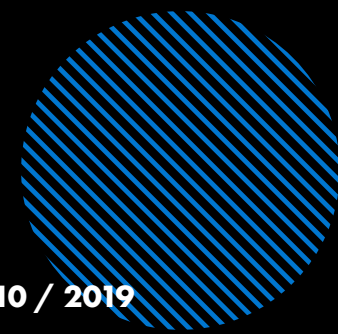


INNER CIRCLE
OCTOBER



#10 / 2019

This month
Are You Improving?
How to Reassess Your
Language Skills.

innovative LANGUAGE.COM

Welcome
back to the
Inner Circle,
listeners.

Last time, you learned about all about
tipping points...

Tipping points are points at which your free
time and your actions tip more and more
towards your language goals. For example,
when you start spending your free time on
language instead of watching TV. Or when
you study on your commute instead of
playing with apps. They're signs that you're
on the right track.

But, the tricky part is you can only spot them
in hindsight.

And there's another thing you can only know
in hindsight: how far you've progressed.

Do you ever wonder if you're getting better? It's a normal thought to have because with languages, it's a bit tricky to see your results and progress. For example, with gym, you can see your results. With language? Not so much.

And I wondered, is my Korean improving? See, I HAVE been hitting my goals so far. I reached my 17 minute mark. But, those are my own goals. It'd be better to have a second opinion.

So, this past month, I retook the assessment test that we have on our site.

ARE YOU IMPROVING?

HOW TO REASSESS YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS.

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1. The Power of Reassessment
 2. How to Reassess Your Language Skills



THE POWER OF REASSESSMENT

So, have you ever wondered if you're improving in your target language?

If you feel like you're not improving, that can hurt your motivation. And, if you see that you are... that can fuel your motivation.

But the tricky part is... how do you reassess yourself?

I was thinking about this this past month. It's almost the end of 2019, and I wanted to know where my Korean is now.

I retook our Premium *PLUS* assessment test — the one our Premium *PLUS* users have to take at the start.

I'll tell how I did in just a second, but to give a bit of background: All language schools have you take an assessment test before you start learning. And we do the same with Premium *PLUS*. Why?

To see what you already know and so you get the lessons that are appropriate for your level.

So, the first time you take an assessment test, it's more so for the teacher.

So they know what you need to learn.

But what if you've been learning for the past 3 months... and now, you want to know how far up you are? That's where reassessment comes in. Since you've put some time in, soon it becomes useful for you too.

You get to see where you stand. You can see where you've improved. What your strengths and weaknesses are.

And my results?

I've had improvement in listening and reading. Writing? Not so much.

But that's because I focus mostly on speaking and listening.

But, it's super encouraging to get confirmation from the assessment test - that I am improving.

Did retaking the assessment test help me hit my monthly goal?

Not directly. Taking it did not add minutes to my conversation, but... confidence and motivation-wise, definitely. And it also tells me what to work on: Writing.

So, nowadays, I'll take a few minutes and write out the dialogue from our lessons. And I'll send writing samples to my Korean Premium *PLUS* teacher.

Now, what about you?



HOW TO REASSESS YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

So, listeners, if you started with us at the beginning of the year, you are in your 10th month of learning. And you want to know how far you've come.

Here's how you can reassess your language skills.

1) If you're a Premium *PLUS* user, retake the assessment test.

Technically, you can only take this once, but we'll give you the secret link.

For JapanesePod101, it's:

<https://www.japanesepod101.com/learningcenter/account/assessment>

For our other sites, replace "JapanesePod101" with the site you're a member of.

Just be careful. Your learning level may be adjusted based on your results. If you're an Absolute Beginner and are now at a Beginner level, you will get Beginner level lessons on your dashboard.

So, if you don't want to lose your current lessons, just change your level back to Absolute Beginner.

2) Revisit old lessons.

An easier way to self-assess your language level is to revisit lesson dialogues from old lessons.

If you've truly made progress, then you should be able to understand them with no problem.

If not, then you know that you need to review them some more.

3) Try harder lessons.

So, try lessons from a higher level. If you're a Lower Intermediate, try Upper Intermediate Lessons.

If you don't understand anything, that's fine.

But if you do, then that's a good sign that you're ready for harder lessons.

4) For reading, check out our extensive reading books.

These are available for all levels. So you can re-read old ones or try harder ones to see where you stand.

You'll find these books in our Lesson Library.

5) For speaking, use our voice recording tool.

If you can easily repeat the lines from the conversation, then that's a good sign.

As a bonus tip, also try reading out loud because it's almost like practicing speaking. If you can read a line easily, then you'll be able to say it easily too.

6) For writing - which is my weakness - copy out the lesson dialogue by hand.

And if that's too easy...

7) Ask your teacher for Premium *PLUS* assignments for reading, writing, speaking and listening. They will provide feedback so you can see where you are with each skill.

You want to
know how
far you've
come.

SET IT AND STICK TO IT

Listeners, the point of reassessment is not to pass or fail, but to see where you've improved and where you need work.

Now, speaking of work... what's my goal?

For next month, I'll go for 17 minutes of conversation and 3 pages of writing.

What's the deadline?

November 30th.

How about you?

What's your monthly goal? Be sure to set it and stick to it. And how often do you try and reassess your language skills?

Shoot me an email at inner.circle@innovativelanguage.com

To your fluency,

Peter Galante

Founder, InnovativeLanguage.com