

INNER CIRCLE MARCH

#3/ 2023

This month

The Power of Signing up for a
Language Proficiency Test

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WELCOME TO THE INNER CIRCLE

This is the monthly no-holds-barred newsletter giving you tried and tested learning methods to help you reach your language goals this year.

Last month, you learned how to create or expand a learning routine through something called... piggybacking.

And for March, we promised to up our learning time with FrenchPod101.

I aimed for 4 hours a week, and Kyejin aimed for 30 hours for the whole month, about 7.5 hours a week.

Kyejin promised 30 hours but put in over 32 hours for the month... which came from the extra commute time, 2 extra teachers, and hanging out with French friends.

Oh, and she signed up for the DEFL B1 (French proficiency test) this coming June... much earlier than our planned

November goal for the year.

I also hit my monthly goal - I put in 4 hours a week... by enrolling in face-to-face classes, on top of my online teachers and FrenchPod101.

Getting more teachers... Signing up for tests... Enrolling in classes...

All of these require money and extra effort. Which can serve as motivation. Once there's money out of your pocket, the amount you care about your goals tends to go up.

Plus, signing for a test really crystallizes the goal in front of you. There's a clear date and deadline. You know exactly what you need to learn. And there's nothing else to it but to do it.

PETER'S PROGRESS

PETER'S MARCH

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3	4	
Morning				AM Commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		
Afternoon								
Evening				9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson			
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Morning	10AM-11AM learning path review	AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM Commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		
Afternoon								
Evening		9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson	9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson			
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Morning	10AM-11AM learning path review	AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM Commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		
Afternoon								
Evening		9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson	9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson			
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Morning	10AM-11AM learning path review	AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM Commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		
Afternoon								
Evening			10PM French Lesson	9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson			
	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Morning	10AM-11AM learning path review	AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM Commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		AM commute - FrenchPod101 lessons - also lesson notes, audio line-by-line		
Afternoon								
Evening		9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson	9:30PM-10:30PM review	10PM French Lesson			

THIS PAST MONTH

- 4+ hours of French
- Recently enrolled in in-person classes
- Continuing with FrenchPod101

Sometimes, the number one way to force yourself to learn is by enrolling in in-person, brick-and-mortar classes. Not a tactic for most people. But one I use to set me on track at times.

I also promised to write more this month... which I have, but the old school way: writing it out, taking a picture, and then sending it to my Premium PLUS for corrections.

And with FrenchPod101, I've tried to speed up my progress... by taking assessments first. If I pass, I can skip over those few lessons it covers and move on. If I fail, well, I'll take the lessons, and as a bonus, I tend to learn better from getting questions wrong.

CAN DO ① ~~can~~ introduce oneself

J'appelle Pierre Gauthier.
 Je ~~suis~~ suis entrepreneur. Je ne suis pas étudiant.
 Je suis américain. Je suis de New York.
 Mon hobby est les livres.

CAN DO ② talk about family

Il y a six personnes dans ma famille. Mon père, ma mère,
 mon frère aîné, ma sœur aînée et mon frère cadet.
 Il y a cinq personnes dans ma famille. Ma femme et
 mes trois fils. ~~Ma~~ Ma femme est chinoise.
 Mon aîné a treize ans.
 Mon deuxième a douze ans.
 Mon troisième a huit ans.

CAN DO ③ ~~can~~ talk about hobbies

Mon hobby est les livres.
 Je n'aime pas la pêche.
 Je n'aime ~~pas~~ vraiment pas le sport.

CAN DO ④ GREETING

Bonjour. Salut. Ciao.
 Bonne soirée. Au revoir.

CAN DO ⑤ social expression.

Excuse-moi. Merci. Je t'en prie.
 Pardon. Merci beaucoup. Ce n'est (pas) rien.

CAN DO ⑥ ASK ABOUT WELL-BEING

• Bonjour. Ça va? Tu Bieuh. Je vais bien - b.i.e.
 • Ça va? C'est toi? Ça va? Je vais bien. Je ne me sens pas bien.
 physiquement, bien. spirituellement, un peu vide.

CAN DO ⑦ give contact info

Mon ~~numéro~~ numéro de téléphone est zéro huit zéro - trois deux un huit.
 zéro zéro deux un.
 Mon

KYEJIN'S PROGRESS

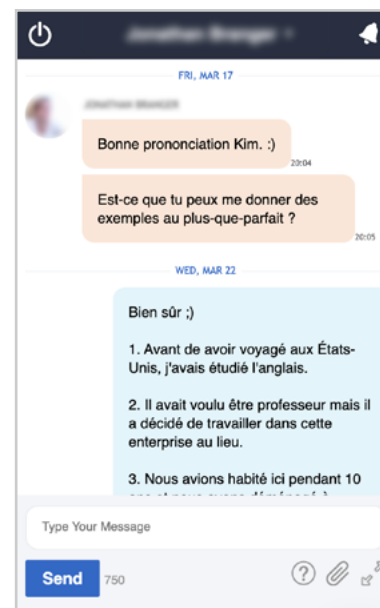
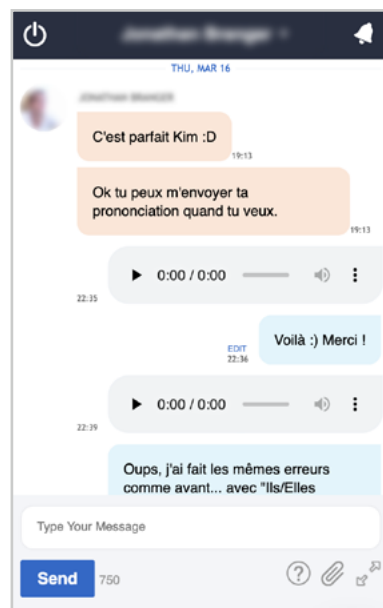
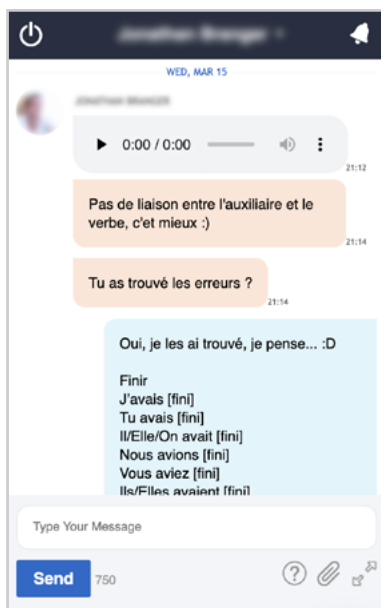
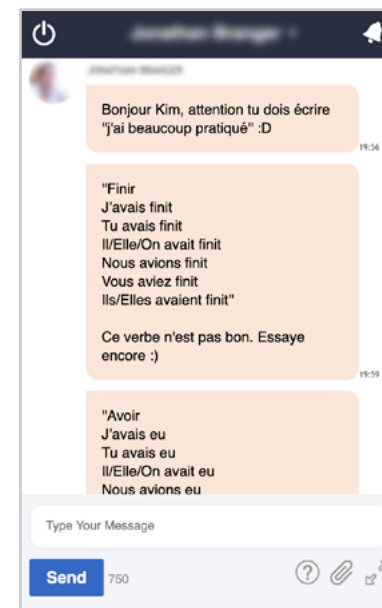
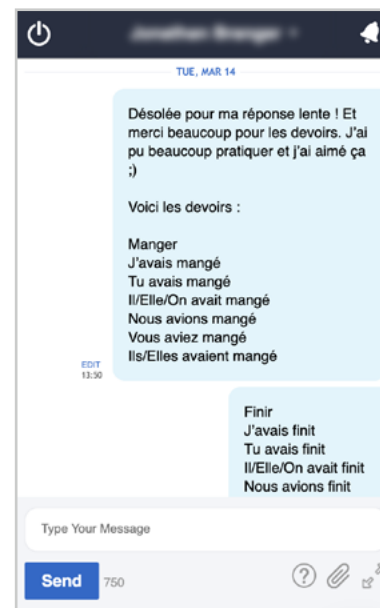
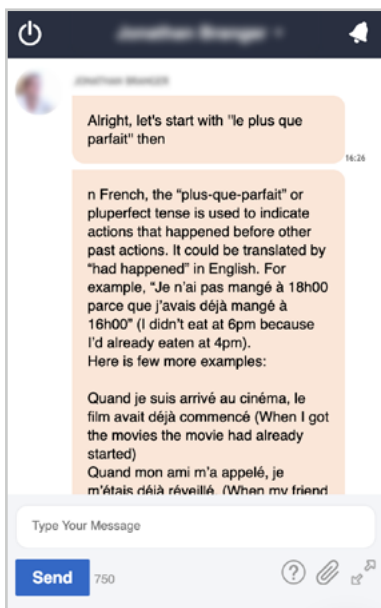
KYEJIN'S MARCH

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3	4	
Morning						9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30	
Afternoon								
Evening				7PM: French School	1:00	7PM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Assessments	0:30	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Morning			10AM: FrenchPod101 Group Class	1:00	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30
Afternoon							2PM: French Lesson	1:00
Evening			7PM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Assessments	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	8PM: French Lesson	1:00
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Morning			10AM: FrenchPod101 Group Class	1:00	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30
Afternoon	2PM: French Lesson	1:00						
Evening		8PM: French Lesson	1:00	7PM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Assessments	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	8PM: French Lesson
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Morning			10AM: FrenchPod101 Group Class	1:00	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30
Afternoon								
Evening	7PM: Meeting a French friend	3:00	8PM: French Lesson	1:00	7PM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Assessments	0:30	7PM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Assessments	0:30
	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Morning			10AM: FrenchPod101 Group Class	1:00	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Audio Lessons	0:30
Afternoon								
Evening		8PM: French Lesson	1:00	7PM: Commute - FrenchPod101 Assessments	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	8PM: French Lesson
32:30:00	4:00:00	3:00:00	6:00:00	6:30:00	4:00:00	5:00:00	4:00:00	

THIS PAST MONTH

- **32.5 hours of French**
- **Hung out with French friends**
- **Signed up for the DEFL B1 exam in June**
- **Continued with Live Group Classes**
- **Continued with FrenchPod101 lessons**
- **Found 2 online teachers (one for speaking and another for the DEFL) and started taking lessons**

Kyejin's approach with FrenchPod101 was a bit different from mine. She would review and retake lessons up to 5 or 6 times, then take the assessments (which counted towards the Premium PLUS portfolio), and follow up with her Premium PLUS teacher for questions.



TAKEAWAYS FOR YOU

Both Kyejin and I went a bit above by getting extra teachers, enrolling in classes, and signing up for tests.

All of these involve money. And as mentioned, your care increases in proportion to the amount of money that has left your pocket.

Since you've paid for the learning system, it's something to keep in mind. Having something to lose serves as powerful motivation. That aside...

Knowing what you want to achieve with the language is also powerful motivation.

Goals can become very clear and concrete once you add a bit of specifics.

In Kyejin's case, she's aiming for the June DELF. There's a specific date. She knows what she needs to learn for the test. It's as specific as it gets.

What about you? You don't have to enroll in a class or sign up for a test. But, you should be very specific with what you want out of the language, which is also why we ask you to set small, measurable goals — because they're just that — specific.

For example, instead of "I want to learn to speak <target language>," go for "I want to speak about my family in <target language>." Instead of, "I just want to speak <target language> comfortably,* go for "I want to have 1 minute of conversation in <target language>."

Then it's just a matter of learning enough lines to 1) talk about your family or 2) have a 1-minute conversation.

If you know what you want and if you're specific about it...

...you'll reach that goal a lot faster.