

MEMBERS ONLY

# MARCH

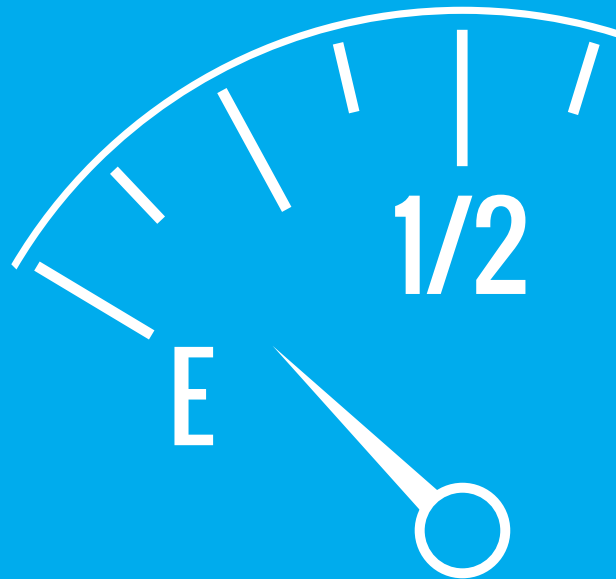
INNER  CIRCLE

03

**THIS MONTH**  
3 SECRETS TO STAYING  
MOTIVATED WITHIN IN  
THE LEARNING ROUTINE >

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# What will happen when you run low on motivation?



## Welcome back!

Last month, you learned about adjusting your daily routines so you don't have to fail your goals. And now that you've set your goals and routines, what will happen when you run low on motivation?

If you're not motivated to consistently sit down and follow those goals and routines, they're not worth the paper they're written on. So, how do you stay motivated in your routine?

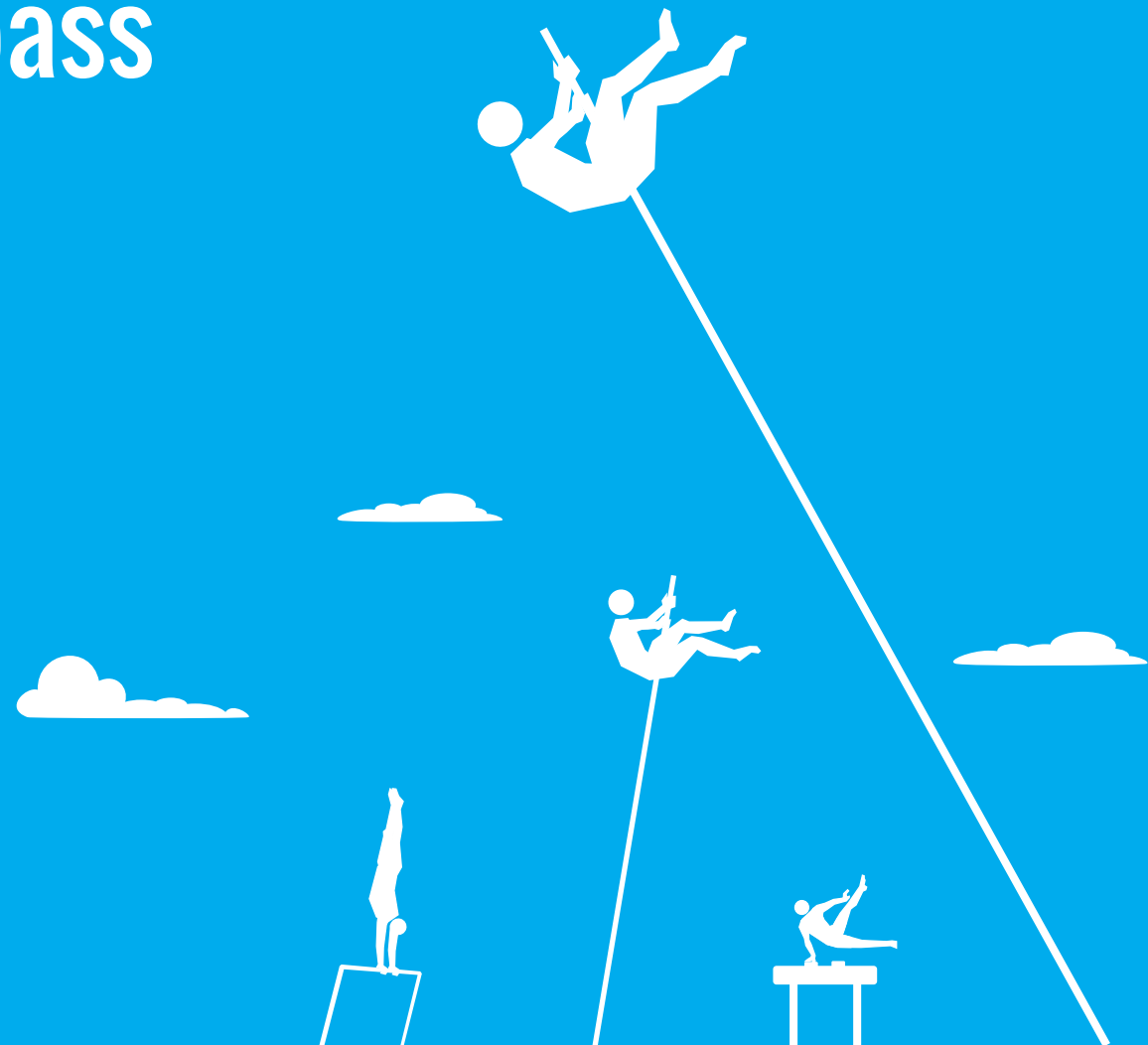
Motivation is the topic of this month's Inner Circle and you might hate me for admitting this upfront but...**I smashed my goal!**

The original March goal was to reach 5 minutes. I doubled it to a total of 10 minutes of pure Italian conversation. How? Motivation is key. However, let me take a step back and say that in the grand scheme of mastering a language, it's a small step. I'm not fluent.

# What I am hoping, though, is that this will motivate you to surpass your monthly goal.

You don't have to raise your goal or expectations.  
Just see if you can aim higher and beat it.

So, what charged me up to **double my Italian  
learning progress** in 1 month?



# Here are my 3 keys to the success from this past month:



A TALENTED TUTOR



A BIT OF CHEATING



TECHNOLOGICAL TRICKS

Read on and discover how each key contributed to the  
smashing of my monthly goal >

# 1

## A TALENTED TUTOR WILL MOTIVATE YOU

Finding the right tutor is crucial for motivation and I'll let you in on how mine works with me. The truth is...I actually interviewed a few others before settling on her. Why?

### IN MY OPINION, GOOD TUTORS MUST HAVE THESE QUALITIES:

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> They answer you back in their language first, even if you're speaking in English.

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> If you say something in English, they repeat it in their language.

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> They correct your mistakes and provide a written version for review.

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> They don't confine you to their strict learning plan but go with your interests.

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The first three points forced the conversation to stay in Italian and built my confidence. Basically, she was correcting and adjusting everything I was getting wrong. That's instant improvement. The fourth point kept the lesson fun and so my motivation never had a chance to dip.

**But let me get back to the main point of motivation.** We're all learning to understand and be understood by native speakers, right? No textbook will ever provide that. You'll never know how good (or bad) you really are...and that's when motivation starts to dip.

However, with real-life feedback, you instantly know what works and what doesn't. And as all self-learners know,

**language study can get lonely when you're alone with books.** Having a talented tutor who is ...

- 
- > Enthusiastic about teaching the language
- 
- > Enthusiastic about your progress
- 
- > Actually having fun with you
- 

...may have been the biggest reason behind my **massive boost in motivation.**

That enthusiasm really rubs off.

It's also why we try to make our Audio and Video lessons as fun and engaging as possible.

# 2

## A BIT OF CHEATING TO GET SOME RESULTS

I cheated a bit to reach this 10-minute conversation mark. Honestly speaking, everyone does this too, so, I'll let you in on a secret: most conversations use the same old, tired phrases. We call them formalities. They're used by all: Beginners, Advanced speakers, and everyone in between.

### PHRASES LIKE..

- > *"Hi, how are you?"*
- > *"How was your weekend?"*
- > *"How do you feel? Any plans?"*

These formalities take up a few minutes and every single conversation with my tutor started like this. Not exactly new Italian material, but it works and in real life everyone goes through these same old phrases. So...

**I went on autopilot and cheated for 3-4 minutes of formalities in every conversation.**

And with every new Italian lesson, I'd actually start using fresh conversation material at the 3 or 4-minute mark. The conversation, then, naturally grew from there, from 4 minutes, to 6 to 10 minutes over the course of the month. Are there any benefits to this "cheating"? Yes. Because I've been doing it so much, I can instantly respond to formalities without thinking, like a native speaker.

The motivational takeaway? It helped me reach 10 minutes, which is huge progress compared to the 5-minute goal. And there's nothing more motivating than seeing your own progress.

My advice is:

- > It's OK to use set phrases consistently. Everyone uses them and you'll only get better by constantly repeating them.
- > If you're timing your conversations like I am, use them to get extra conversation time.
- > Keep tracking your goals. Seeing your own progress is motivating.



# 3

## TECHNOLOGICAL TRICKS TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

If you don't know how to say something in your target language...would you use Google Translate? Even if it came out wrong? I used it for my Skype lessons.

### AND IT WORKED REALLY WELL

Not because Google is always right but because my tutor could get the gist of what I wanted to say. Would it be any different than me taking 10 minutes to look up words in a dictionary and grammar books? No. Just a lot faster.

More importantly, this kept our conversations and lessons in Italian, and my tutor would correct anything that was wrong. That's instant feedback. And throughout the lesson, I'd keep thinking to myself... "we're doing this all in Italian", which was incredibly motivating.

#### **But am I really learning Italian if I'm just translating it?**

Well, for one, I am saying these things out loud. I'm taking extensive notes and taking down her corrections and explanations. And, I'm also using the corrected Italian phrases. The only difference is that I'm not actually "drilling" grammar rules or spending time flipping through the dictionary.

### So, why use tech tricks like online translation?

- > Most importantly, it keeps the focus on your target language, even if it's wrong.
- > With a tutor, you get instant feedback on what's right and wrong.
- > You save time on looking up words and grammar in books.
- > You can easily save these conversations and take notes.

**WE'RE DOING THIS ALL IN ITALIAN**

**Translate**

**These 3 keys kept my motivation going this past March.** The first and most important one was having a native speaker correct and motivate me. Anyone ever tell you to “surround yourself with people better than you?” I applied that to my Italian studies. Also, relying on commonly used phrases and using tech shortcuts kept my progress up, which meant my motivation stayed up. **Remember, seeing your progress does wonders for motivation too.**

So, what’s my April Goal? Well, I’ll aim for 14 minutes, just 4 minutes above my current time. However, as recommended above, I will try and aim a bit higher. I hope you do too.

**And remember to set your April Monthly Goal.** Have you dealt successfully or unsuccessfully with motivational issues in the past? I want to hear about your next goal and how you deal with maintaining motivation.

# Dealt successfully or unsuccessfully with motivational issues?

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**To your fluency,  
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