

MEMBERS ONLY

MAY

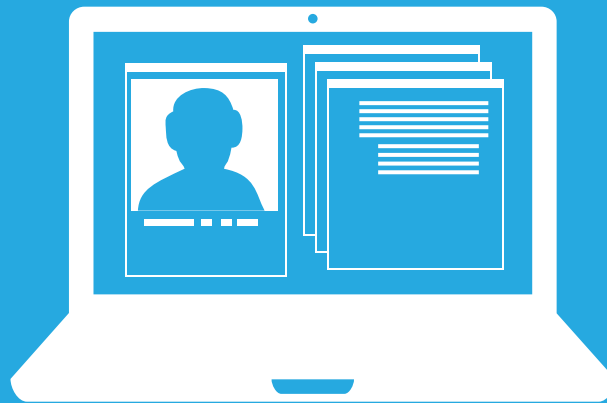
INNER  CIRCLE

05

THIS MONTH
MASTERING LANGUAGE
WITH AN ONLINE TUTOR
VS. AN IN-PERSON TUTOR

innovative  LANGUAGE.COM

Do you even need an In-person tutor if one's available online?



Welcome back!

Last month, I gave you 4 tactics for achieving your language goals when your motivation is down. Motivation is always a popular topic and many of you responded with your own stories and strategies on bouncing back! Thank you!

This month, with my motivation and confidence at a new high, I upgraded my learning routine and started learning Italian with an in-person tutor.

So, the big question is...is learning language with an online Skype tutor the same as with an in-person tutor? Do you even need an in-person tutor if one's available online?

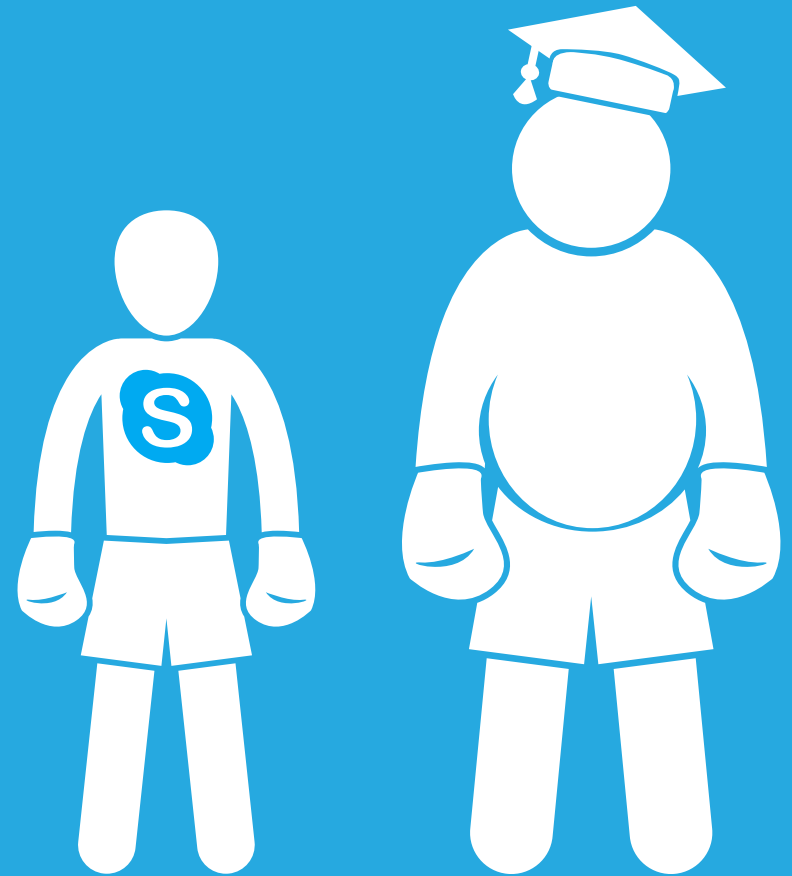
This is the topic of May's Inner Circle.

Both have amazing advantages but are very different.

Different enough that despite making great progress with my Skype tutor, my in-person tutor knocked my Italian down a peg. So, what happened?

In this Inner Circle Lesson, I'll go over:

- › Why My Skype Lessons Have Been Going Well & the Advantages of a Skype Tutor
- › The Differences With Learning With an In-Person Tutor
- › The One Killer Advantage of an In-Person Tutor



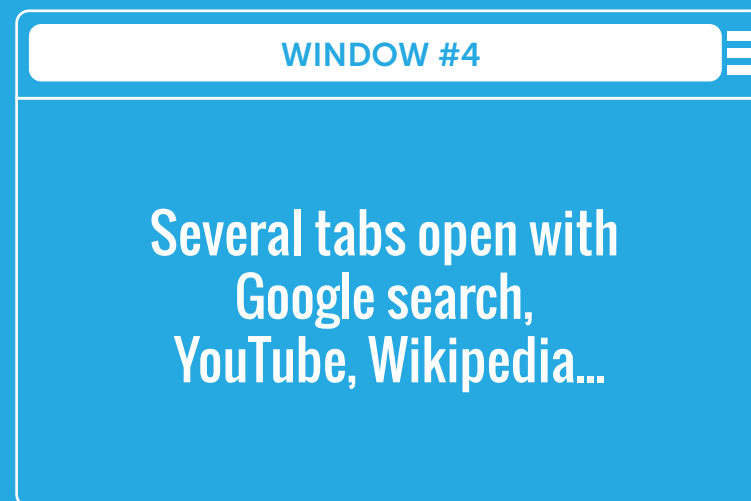
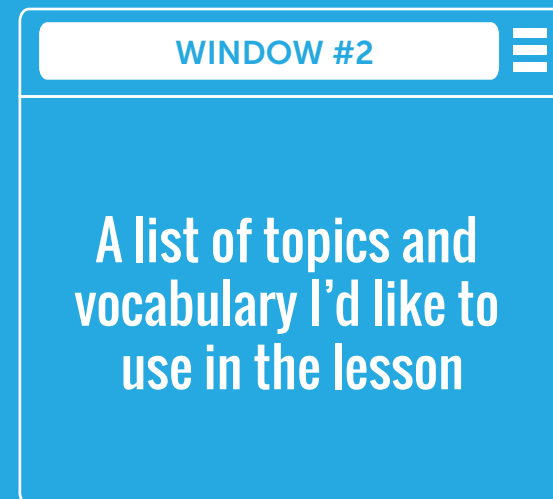
So, why have my Skype lessons been going so well? Remember, my overall goal is to maximize my Italian speaking time. But first, let me explain how the lessons work so you can understand how I've been able to progress so far.

Every time I have my lesson, my computer is my Italian learning 'command center'.

Think of it as the NASA command center: a ton of screens, tools, buttons and switches, all within arm's reach. Well, in my case, it's just two monitors and a multitude of browser windows open. Each window has a specific tool necessary for my Skype lessons. More importantly, these tools keep my lessons flowing in pure Italian and maximize my speaking time.

How are we able to keep conversations in pure Italian? This is where the advantages of using a Skype tutor and these other tools come in.

WHAT ARE THESE TOOLS?



1

The First Advantage **FAST ANSWERS**

What takes 10-20 seconds of looking up in a traditional dictionary is instant on Google Translate. This means that the flow of our conversations doesn't get broken. While we're speaking, I'm checking for the next phrase I'd like to say. This takes a second.

Google Translate is not exactly accurate, but my teacher can understand what I want to say and correct it. That way, I also get **fast feedback** and can easily correct myself. Anything that I don't understand or get wrong, my tutor writes down in Skype chat, parrots the correct version back, and we carry on.

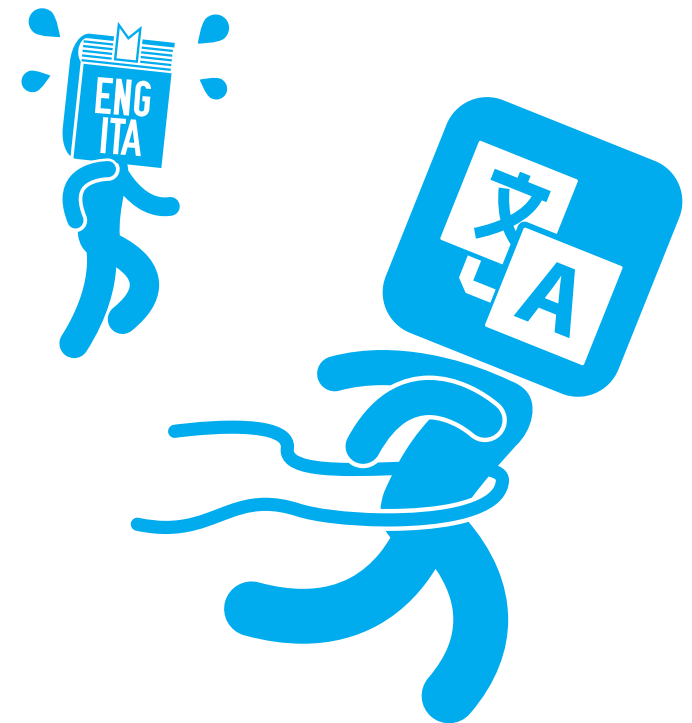
The flow of the conversation is never broken because of fast answers and

translations. This is important because it mimics the flow of real-life conversations. Stopping and thinking about every word and grammar would kill a conversation fast!

Key Points:

- You're using new words and phrases on the spot in conversations
- You're getting fast feedback and corrections so you can improve right after.
- Corrections can be saved from the chat for later review
- The conversation flow is never broken

With the first advantage, you unlock the second advantage of having a Skype tutor...



2

The Second Advantage

LONGER & MORE IN-DEPTH CONVERSATIONS

WHY DO BEGINNERS FUMBLE IN CONVERSATIONS?

They run out of words and things to say about a certain topic. They don't go far past the basics and then it's over; conversation's done.

It's like only being able to say *"Hello, how are you?"* and nothing else.

Google Translate handles the words and phrases I don't know but want to use.

But, how do I go in-depth with conversations?

With Google Search, I have a ton of information available at my fingertips and my conversations can reach more depth. In the last lesson, we went from talking about my doctor's appointment, which was on my list of topics in **Window #2**, to American doctors' salaries, and over to Italian doctors' salaries.

Having Google Search in **Window #4** on my second screen, I could pull up "Italian doctors' salaries," share the link with the tutor and continue on with why I thought they didn't get paid enough.

And the longer our conversation lasted, the more new words and phrases I was

exposed to, learned and used. This is great on-the-spot progress you won't find anywhere else.

Key Points:

- Online material is available to keep a conversation going
- You avoid the shallow conversations most beginners have and reach more depth
- The longer the topic lasts, the more new words and phrases you learn



3

The Third Advantage

OUR CONVERSATION TOPICS NEVER RUN OUT

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A BEGINNER FUMBLES ONE CONVERSATION?

They'll normally jump into another to try and keep going. That one will soon end too.

Conversation topics tend to run out fast after a language learner bounces from introductions, to where they're from, to what they like to eat and such.

That's why I have a list of planned topics in **Window #2**, but as you know, conversations can naturally progress into different topics. And then, there are times you want to bring up something new.

Again, with the Internet on hand during my Skype lessons, I can always find new topics and material to talk about. Whether videos, music, articles or any kind of multimedia. This is where YouTube, Wikipedia and Google Search in **Window #4** come in. For example, one topic we were also talking about was the new movie *Frozen* that I saw with my kids, which the tutor hadn't heard of.

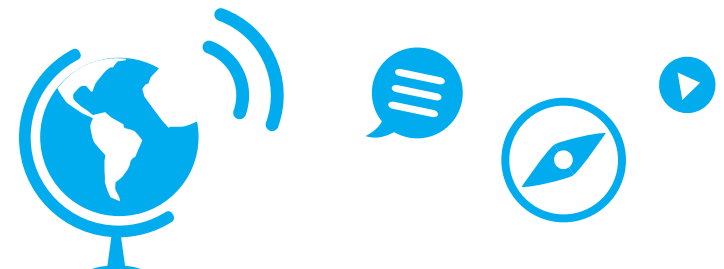
What did I do? I sent over the Italian Wikipedia link and we kept on going from there.

In real life, there's not much new to talk about when you're an unprepared beginner.

Especially when you can't maintain the conversations because you're running low on words. So this is where the first advantage, fast answers, makes this all possible.

Key Points:

- > Have a list of planned topics and relevant words, phrases and translations
- > You'll never run out of new topics with the Internet by your side
- > Use YouTube, Google and Wikipedia to find new talking points



SO WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT LEARNING WITH AN IN-PERSON TUTOR?

How did i get knocked down a peg despite my flowing italian conversations?



Despite both scenarios involving conversation with a real person, they're drastically different. How? There are no online tools you can rely on heavily, as I did, in real-life conversation!

You only have what's in your brain. Our first in-person lesson was at Starbucks, and aside from being noisy, and me having no prepared talking points, I stuck with the Italian basics that were already drilled in my head...and I was at a loss for words. We tried one topic, basketball, and I had to reach for the dictionary. That took 5 or 10 seconds and happened throughout the lesson. If there was something I didn't understand, she'd take 10 or 20 seconds to write it down by hand.

As you can imagine, the conversation and lesson itself had no flow whatsoever. We'd pause in awkward silence, while one of us looked up a word or wrote something down, jumped from topic to topic, and the lesson was an overall disaster.

There are 3 major differences that come with an in-person tutor:

1

THERE ARE NO FAST ANSWERS

Reaching for a dictionary every 5 seconds breaks the flow of conversation, even if it's on a smartphone, and you quickly run out of words.

2

CONVERSATIONS CAN'T GO FAR

This is a result of running out of words, which every beginner struggles with. And this results in awkwardly jumping into other topics, which is the third difference.

3

YOU RUN OUT OF TOPICS TO TALK ABOUT

After jumping from topic to topic, you run out of topics to talk about. This is immediately obvious if you don't have a list of topics prepared.

How can you get around these issues?

Here's what I did at our second lesson. I doubled my preparation time and prepared lists of topics, words, phrases, grammar, and translated sentences that I wanted to use ahead of time. Timely? Yes. Effective? Yes. In a sense, I used the techniques that worked online – having a list of prepared topics – and had it with me at the lesson.

Also, I arranged the lesson to be held at an Italian restaurant; it's obvious, but extremely helpful. Everything in that restaurant becomes a talking

point, from the menu, to Italian food and more. During the lesson, the tutor and I talked about her hometown in Italy and used a travel guide that I brought along. This travel guide allowed us to talk more in-depth about where she was from. In other words, I brought extra material that I'd normally send online to allow us to keep a topic going.

On top of all of this, I brought 3 videos on my iPad as backup, as extra topics of conversation, in case we ran out.

IN SHORT, HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO >



1

SINCE THERE ARE NO FAST ANSWERS, PREPARE THE FOLLOWING LISTS AHEAD OF TIME:

- A. Topics of interest
- B. Vocabulary relevant to the topics
- C. Grammar that you'd like to use
- D. Translated sentences that would fit into such conversations.

2

BRING EXTRA MATERIAL THAT'S RELEVANT TO YOUR TOPICS TO KEEP CONVERSATIONS GOING.

Visual material such as magazines and YouTube videos can be helpful if it doesn't stop the flow of conversation.

3

EXTRA MATERIAL CAN ALSO SERVE TO PROVIDE NEW TOPICS OF CONVERSATION.

This is why I keep 3 videos on hand, just in case.

4

FINALLY, THE LOCATION OF YOUR LESSON CAN OFFER NEW CONVERSATION TOPICS.

If it's relevant to the language, as the Italian restaurant was in my case, everything in it can become a talking point. For example, with the Italian restaurant, we could talk about things like...

- A. Italian food
- B. The food Italians normally eat
- C. Other restaurants

What issues do you encounter when you put your language to the test in real-life situations?

Send me an e-mail at:

INNER.CIRCLE@INNOVATIVELANGUAGE.COM

While the first lesson knocked me down a peg and made me realize that I can't speak as much Italian as I'd like to in real life, there is one killer advantage of in-person tutors.

Your language gets put to the test.

Real-life interaction is the best practice you can get because you're challenged to use what you know to keep the interaction natural.

Why's this so important? It's because most learners, above all, just want to speak and understand real-life conversation. So instead of delaying the inevitable, you've

got to start talking to native speakers. This is where my new in-person tutor came in. And since I doubled up on on my tutors, I was able to reach my 18-minute conversation goal this month.

What's my June Goal? I'll keep it realistic because these new in-person lessons require preparation and aim for 20 minutes. Just 2 minutes above my current level.

And remember to set your June Monthly Goal. I want to hear about your next goal. Remember to keep it specific, realistic and measurable and have a deadline.

I'd also like to know – do you combine online and in-person tutors? And what issues do you encounter when you put your language to the test in real-life situations? Tell me your stories and strategies.

Send me an email at

inner.circle@innovativelanguage.com.

To your fluency,

Peter Galante

Founder, InnovativeLanguage.com

