

MEMBERS ONLY

NOVEMBER

INNER  CIRCLE

11

THIS MONTH
THE POWER OF READING
& REMINDERS TO MASTER
A LANGUAGE

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There's only one month left in the year, time is of the essence.



Welcome back!

In the previous Inner Circle, you learned how to use the power of deadlines to ramp up your language learning progress. Since there's only one month left in the year, time is of the essence.

That's why we're continuing with tactics that boost your language in a short amount of time. In other words, strategies that get your goals done. **This time, we're talking about the power of reading and the power of reminders to help you learn a language.** These are two completely different topics, often ignored, and yet so powerful if you use them right.

In this Inner Circle, you'll find out why reading helps your speaking and why reminders simply get your goals done. You'll also find out how I'm putting these to use. **More specifically, you'll learn...**

1

Why Reading Can Actually Improve Your Speaking

*1
Month*

2

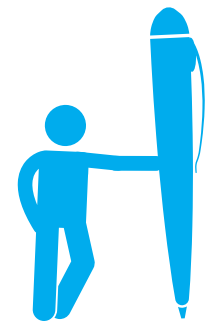
Why Reminders Get Your Goals Done

*2
Minutes*

*Get it
Done.*

3

How I'm Implementing These Two Tactics



First, let's catch up with my monthly goal.

I've reached my 28-minute mark for November. That leaves 1 month and 2 more minutes to go until the 30-minute Italian conversation goal I set back in January.

Just 1 month and 2 minutes.

See how great it is to set small, measurable monthly goals with a deadline? I've made progress over the year. I know my deadline. I know just how much is left. And it's why I recommend that you do the same.

NOW, LET'S GET INTO THIS MONTH'S TOPICS >





Why Reading Can Actually Improve Your Speaking

FIRST, WHY AM I “READING” IF MY GOAL IS TO SPEAK 30 MINUTES OF ITALIAN?

You’re probably thinking that these are two separate skills. And you’re not wrong.

Speaking requires you to open your mouth and coherently put words together while pronouncing everything the right way.

Oh, and it’s often with another person.

Reading, on the other hand, is you, alone, quietly poring over a book.

You’re pretty much inside your head the entire time.

However, there are 2 major benefits of reading over speaking.

The first one is: speaking speed.

In other words, how quickly and comfortably you're able to speak and respond. Imagine someone asks you what your name is in a foreign language. You pause. You remember the phrase. And you mumble it out. 5 seconds have already passed by.

Now imagine if you answered it instantly. *"My name is... And you?"*



And imagine what the native speaker you're chatting with is thinking. What they gather is - you understood quickly, you responded quickly - and therefore, they assume you're quite likely to be fairly proficient in their language.

Had you stuttered, stumbled or given them a blank look, they'd know they were dealing with a beginner. The conversation wouldn't last much longer.

Speaking without thinking is the goal of every language learner. And for that you need speed.

So, how does reading improve your speaking speed?

In the case of reading, here's what you can do to boost your speed:

> Read Out Loud And Re-read

When you read out loud, you're essentially speaking, though of course without a partner. And like any beginner attempting to read or speak, the first time will be slow and awkward.

This is where re-reading comes in

After you've read that sentence out loud once, read it again and boost your speed the second time. Then again. And again. Repeat this process until you can read it just by taking a glance at the sentence.

Not only does this tactic improve your overall reading, it will translate into your speaking skills as well. If you read and prepare the phrases you'd like to use, you'll be able to fire them off without thinking. You'll be speaking without thinking.

Here's How You Can Apply This Tactic On Our 101 Site:

- > Tune into any lesson and read out loud with Lesson Notes or the Line-by-Line.
- > You can even record yourself with the Line-by-Line as you read out loud. *Use this tool to compare your pronunciation with the native speakers'.*
- > Take advantage of our Free Phrase Lists, which you can find in Vocabulary Lists under the Resources Menu.

The second major benefit of reading is that it increases your overall range of expression.



In other words, you learn more words and phrases.

It's been heavily documented, studied and proven that reading boosts your vocabulary. Some of the greatest speakers started off as voracious readers. And this applies to language learning as well.

If you want to speak more of your target language... you need more words and phrases. As you read, you learn new words (and yes, you're often forced to look them up), the context that they're used in, and re-affirm the grammar rules you already know.

Apply what you learn to speaking and you'll greatly increase your range of expression.

Or simply, you'll be able to speak a lot more!

Now let's get into the second tactic.

2

Why Reminders Get Your Goals Done

PICTURE THIS. YOU START OUT WITH A GOAL IN MIND.

For the sake of relevancy, we'll say it's learning a language. It's a goal you really want to achieve. But for most people, they're these far-away concepts that may not actually ever be realized.

In the meantime, you start putting some work into your goal. And while you're learning, you tell somebody about your goal.

So, they start checking in on you.

- 1 Two weeks into your progress, you get a call saying *"Hey, how's it going? I hope you didn't quit yet."*
- 2 Then in another week, *"Hey how's your monthly goal coming along?"*
- 3 Two days before your deadline, *"Hey, how close are you to making it?"*

With these reminders, chances are you'd actually buckle down and get things done. Think of a teacher asking their student where their homework is. Or, of a boss asking their employee how that report is going.

That's added motivation to accomplish a task.

That's a person that wants to see you succeed.

Learning a language is a marathon. Consider that reminder as a person at every half-mile point reminding you to keep going. With extra support, you'll keep going.

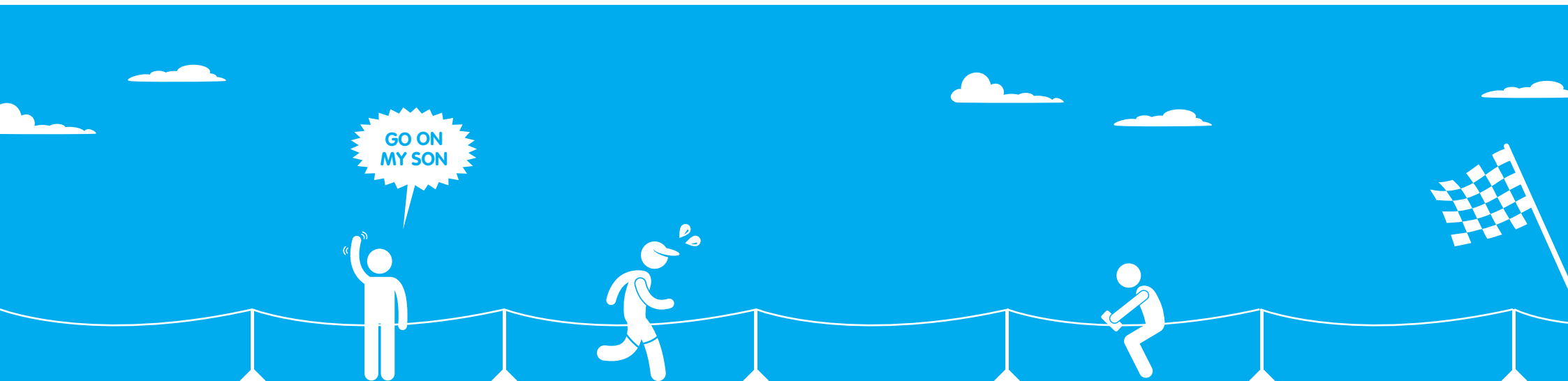
And that goes for learning anything - consistent effort over a long period is necessary - but with an extra reminder, your goal is more likely to become reality.

My ItalianPod101 teacher definitely kept me on my toes and helped me reach 28 minutes.

In fact, the reminders were her doing!

But it was only when I noticed how effective they were that I asked her to add reminders into our learning routine and get strict with me.

So let's get into the third point.





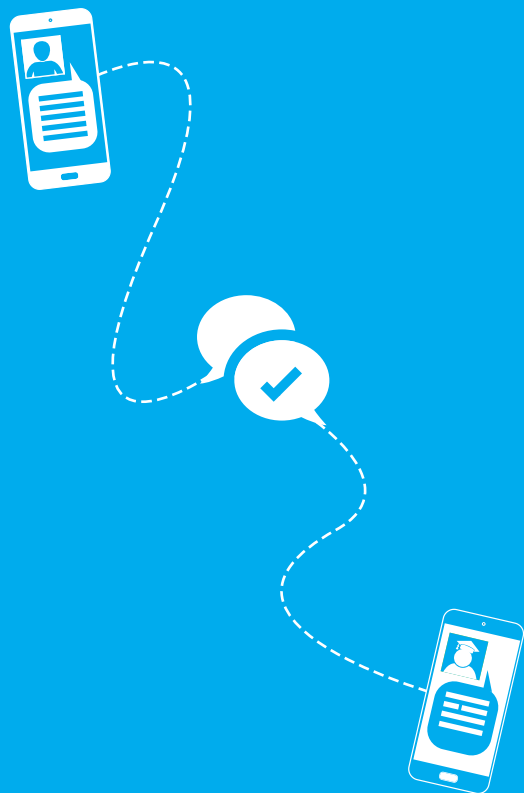
How I'm Implementing Reading & Reminders

This past month, I've been taking full advantage of ItalianPod101's Premium PLUS My Teacher Tool. Basically, this puts me in contact with my Italian teacher and I can send her any message, question, piece of writing or recording to correct.

She'll also send me assignments as well. Recently, it's been reading assignments.

Every day, she sends me a relevant article through My Teacher.

Since ItalianPod101 lessons come with cultural insights, the articles are always related to the lessons I'm doing. The last one was about public transportation in Italy, from Intermediate Lesson 1.



As soon as I receive the article, I....

- > Read it out loud
- > Look up any words I'm unsure of
- > Re-read and attempt to improve my reading speed
- > Send her a recording of my reading to check my pronunciation
- > Tell her "I'm done" plus include any questions I may have

Overall, this will take me 20 minutes at most.

On the following day, my teacher will:

- > Respond with a new article
- > Include questions about the previous article that I have to answer
- > Address my questions or add feedback about my recording

That's right. She tests me on the article I've read previously to see how well I've understood it. So, throughout this process, several things happen:

- > I improve my speaking speed
- > I improve my reading speed
- > I learn more vocabulary and phrases. This, in turn, increases my range of expression
- > With her help, I improve my pronunciation
- > And her questions help me improve my overall Italian comprehension

But where are those super-effective reminders I was boasting about earlier?

Well, believe it or not, this month started off on a bad note.

On the first day she sent me an article via Premium PLUS My Teacher, I ignored it. It was a busy work day. And of course, around the end of November/Holiday Season, life seems to somehow get more in the way.

Since I never responded that day with an "I'm done" message, she didn't wait 'til the next day.

She messaged me again.

Why didn't you read it yet?

The article then arrived in my inbox. Since it was sitting there staring at me, I read it on the second day and sent an "I'm done."

On the third day, she sent a new article plus the review questions. Again, I ended up being busy and didn't read it.



Again, I received a nice message, *"Peter, I am waiting for you to finish the article and the answers to the questions."* Alright. It was time to stop what I was doing. I read the article and sent my answers.

Most normal people would think *"Oh, give me a break!"*

I had the complete opposite reaction. *"Wow, I'm improving my Italian and getting things done. She's good!"*

This is when I realized how an extra nudge, in the form of a reminder, would help me reach my monthly, and ultimately yearly goal. So, I asked her to get strict with me and keep sending reminders. It's the end of the year and time is of the essence after all.

Otherwise, I would've put the assignments off and by the time I had to measure my Italian conversation with a timed test... I wouldn't have hit 28 minutes.

Alright, Inner Circle members.
There's 1 month left in the year.

For next month, I'm aiming for the big
30 minutes of Italian conversation.
December 31st is the hard deadline.

What about you?

Don't forget your final monthly goal for December. I want to hear about your next goal. Remember to keep it specific, realistic and measurable and to have a deadline.

Also, if you read or use a system of reminders to help boost your progress, let me know how you're doing it.

Be sure to leave a comment or send me an email at
inner.circle@innovativelanguage.com

To your fluency,
Peter Galante
Founder, InnovativeLanguage.com

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