



Berlitz Training and Methodology

At the heart of all Berlitz programs is the conversational Berlitz Method. This enjoyable method has been proven effective by over 35 million Berlitz graduates from all walks of life - a record not to be matched.

The Berlitz Method, which has been refined and enhanced by over a century of research and learning technologies, is still founded on its original basic principals:

1. Language is an oral phenomenon; therefore, all teaching and learning is done in an oral context. Reading and writing skills are essential, but must be preceded by and rest on oral mastery.
2. The acquisition of oral skills involves the development of habits, both intellectual and physical. The proper mastery of language involves active student participation in all stages of instruction.
3. The Berlitz Method excludes any use of the student's native language in either the classroom or in the student's review materials. By totally immersing the student in the new language, we can most closely simulate the real-life situations in which he or she will be using the language, and eliminate the cumbersome process of introducing a concept first in the student's language and then in the target language. The "direct" approach (from concept to language) is the essence of the Berlitz Method.
4. The Berlitz Method is based on a "building-block" approach. During the early stages of instruction, primary emphasis is given to establishing basic structure. As each structure is introduced (and thoroughly practiced), it forms a groundwork which serves as a springboard to the next structure, which is in turn combined into still other structures.

Berlitz proceeds from simple concepts to complex ones, from concrete to abstract. In the early stages, students deal with simple declarative sentences, then questions. Only later are they exposed to relative and subordinate clauses, compound and complex forms, and sentence embedding. Likewise, students are first taught to identify and describe the people and objects in their immediate surroundings. This is then expanded to permit them to discuss abstract relationships, feelings, emotions, conditions, cause/effect relationships, etc.
5. All instructors have a native command of the language they teach.

What's Different About Berlitz

A Proven Effective Method - Our expertise in the field of teaching languages has been proven effective for more than 130 years. Our students tell us that they learn effectively and they learn quickly.

Native-Fluent Instruction - Berlitz uses only thoroughly-trained, native-fluent instructors. Students learn their new language the way it is spoken today. They learn proper pronunciation and natural correct grammar, so that they can understand their new language, and are understood by their colleagues abroad. Instructors are changed from time to time, giving the student the opportunity to learn to understand various speech patterns, accents, and voices.

Emphasis on Live Instruction - Live instruction, with individual attention given to each student, is the essence of the Berlitz Method. However, CD-ROM, video, and other contemporary learning technologies are offered where appropriate to give the student the optimal opportunity to reinforce new material.

Centralized Quality Control - The Berlitz Curriculum and Training Department maintains a program of quality control and oversees the training of instructors throughout the world. This program is administered, at the local level, by the Language Center Director, in conjunction with the instructional supervisor. Local control is enhanced by both, district and regional supervision. Students are assured of the same commitment to quality in every Berlitz Language Center worldwide.

Uniformity of Instruction - Because Berlitz provides a standardized curriculum, which may be targeted to specific needs, students are able to follow the same course at any location worldwide. Instruction can begin at one Berlitz Language Center, and continue at another using the same methodology and materials.

Supervision - The Berlitz Language Center Director and instructional supervisors monitor student progress and serve as general advisors. To ensure that Berlitz is on target with meeting needs and expectations, they also issue progress reports, which are then discussed with students, advising them of their strengths and weaknesses, and assisting them to better understand the process of language learning.

The Berlitz Method brings life to learning a language. It takes the "pain" out of learning, and makes it an enjoyable and gratifying experience. There are no dull, boring grammar drills to slow the student down. As a result, he or she begins thinking in, and speaking the language right away, without the added step of translation.

Through exposure to a variety of teachers, the student acquires correct pronunciation, and the latest idioms and expressions. In addition, the student learns to understand different accents, intonations and speech patterns, avoiding the typical syndrome of understanding only one's teacher.

Contact your local Language Centre for more details on how we can help you discover a new language.