

THE AGE AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDYING

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Today, the good command of a foreign language is very important for the success in many spheres of modern life. The more languages we can speak, the more successful we are.

The people of different ages were taught by me (from 3 to 55 years old). Every age is unique. It's necessary to find the special ways, methodology, individual findings for the student of every age. Let's divide the people into three age categories. The first is the category of children (1-12 years old), the second is the category of teenagers and youth (13-25 years old), and the third is the category of grown ups (30 years old and older).

According to international investigations, and my own practice (I've got two sons), a one year old child can recognize the objects around him by ear. First, the children have to understand the pronunciation and names of the objects in his native language. After that it's possible to teach them foreign pronunciation of the same objects and things.

At the age of 2-3 years old the intellectual progress of children helps them to understand the difference between foreign and native sounds. It means that at this age the children can start study a foreign language.

Visual thinking at the age of 4 years old gives additional opportunities in language studying. According to international investigations of the philologists the age of 5-10 years old is "magic" for studying a foreign language. Psychologists claim that it is easier for children to master a foreign language than for adults because the children have the keen interest to all new things. The second reason is in better liveliness of a child's speech organs than an adult's one. Psychologists think that any person has awkward possibilities for quick and natural studying at the age under 20 years old. Approximately at this age the formation of cerebrum has been finished. All the brain

sections have final construction, and the quantity of nervous cells is maximum [1, p.9, 274].

The second category for a foreign language studying includes teenagers and youth. This category needs in foreign languages more than younger and older people. The age of this category is the most convenient because there is no necessity to start studying from the beginning. The teachers usually prefer to work with teenagers or youth. This category is the largest one. Teaching the students of this age category you haven't to teach them in the form of play or action. You needn't to find simple words that to explain hard grammar things. You haven't to find a lot of different colors pictures or favorite toys. The students of this category are usually under 20 years old. The teachers or foreign languages instructors prefer to work with this age category for their own professional advancement. The members of this category have already realized: "The more languages you know, the more successful you are". They understand that foreign languages are the chance. It's the chance to start living and thinking in another way, to find a new and interesting job, to make new friends, to travel without boundaries.

Studying a foreign language is a new emotional feeling. Adults master a foreign language more intensive, more interesting, more venturesome comparing with young people. Adults are mental hardened. They know what kind of methods to use. The methods they have used during life. Adults have already known that studying and learning must be intuitively understandable. We have to be creative in everything including studying. People who reached maturity know how to get food for thought from small details, minor things, insignificant events comparing with their knowledge and experience. Finally, the greatest advantage of this age category is ability to see and achieve the aim, skill to spend own power reasonably.

There are no barriers in a foreign language studying. The person of any age is able to study a foreign language. Every age is unique and has its advantages for individual perfection. It depends on you, on your desire!

It doesn't matter when you were born. The world will be developing the science, will be make new discoveries and findings, and the people will need to communicate with each other more and more. The year after year a foreign language will become the necessity of life because we can start study foreign languages in any age.

References

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