

italki™.com

Instant Immersion™

Student Guide

How you can use italki to become fluent in a foreign language!

v. 20140630

Instant Immersion

Congratulations on your bonus 30-minute language lesson from italki.com! This guide will explain how you can review and practice what you have learned in your Instant Immersion course with a live online teacher on italki.com.



Learn a New Language

+



Practice with a Live Teacher

italki.com

What is italki?

italki is the world's largest online marketplace to find an online language teacher.

At italki we believe the best language learning system in world is to learn from people. We built italki to make human connections between language learners and language teachers. Whether you are learning Chinese for business, Spanish for travel, or Arabic for personal interest, italki can connect you to the right teacher for your schedule, budget, and learning style.

Watch the "What is italki?" video introduction below



http://go.italki.com/videoinstant

Why learn with an online teacher?



Learning with a teacher gives you support and guidance that will help you learn faster and more consistently!

- ★ Instant feedback leads to faster progress
- ★ Speaking with a native teacher will give you native sounding pronunciation
- ★ Having a teacher is more structured than a language partner

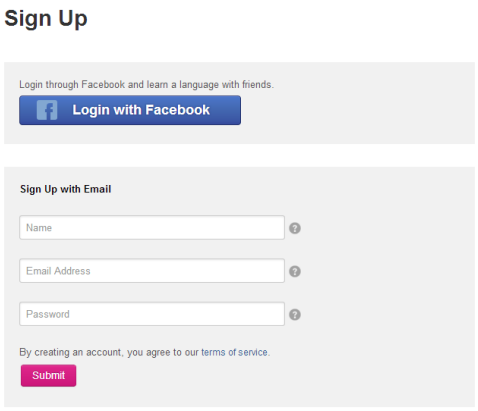
Redeem your live italk session

To redeem your 30-minute live session on italki, you'll need to follow these simple 5 steps:

- ❑ **Step 1** Register on italki.com
- ❑ **Step 2** Redeem your Instant Immersion Promotion Code
- ❑ **Step 3** Find a Language Teacher
- ❑ **Step 4** Schedule a Trial Language Lesson
- ❑ **Step 5** Have your Scheduled Online Language Lesson

Step 1 Register on italki.com

Before you can start your online lessons, you'll need to create an account on italki. Go to http://www.italki.com



italki signup box

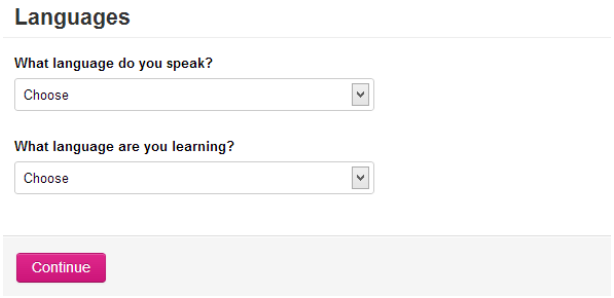
You can sign up on italki via:

➔ Login with Facebook

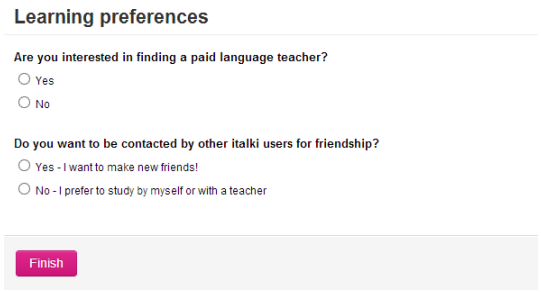
➔ Sign up with Email
Enter in your email address, username (often your first name), and a password

Choose whatever option is most convenient for you!

During the sign-up process, you'll need to answer questions about your language learning goals.

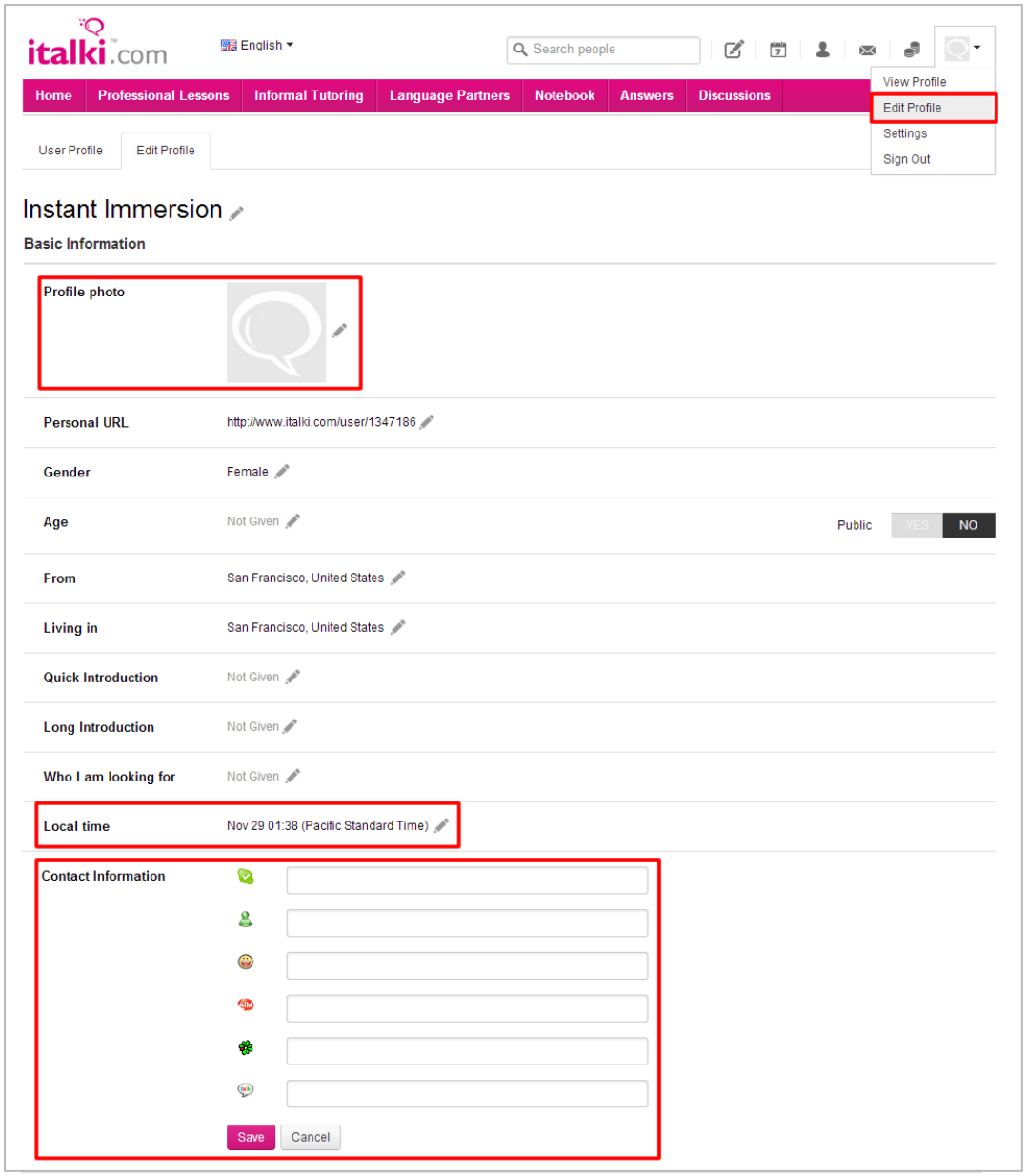


★ Add the language that you speak
★ Add your Instant Immersion Language Course you are learning



★ Click "Yes" for finding a paid language teacher
★ Click "Yes" if you want to interact with other language learners.
Click "No" if you just want to learn from your language teacher.

Complete your italki Profile



- We strongly recommend that users also **upload a profile photo**. Users with real profiles are more likely to have strong interactions with their teachers, as well as the community.
- Enter **your local time** as this information is needed for scheduling as teachers come from all over the world.
- Enter the Contact Information (user ID) for your **online video conferencing and chat software**. SKYPE is the preferred communication tool but you can add others as well.
  (Don't have a SKYPE account? Get a free SKYPE account at www.skype.com.)

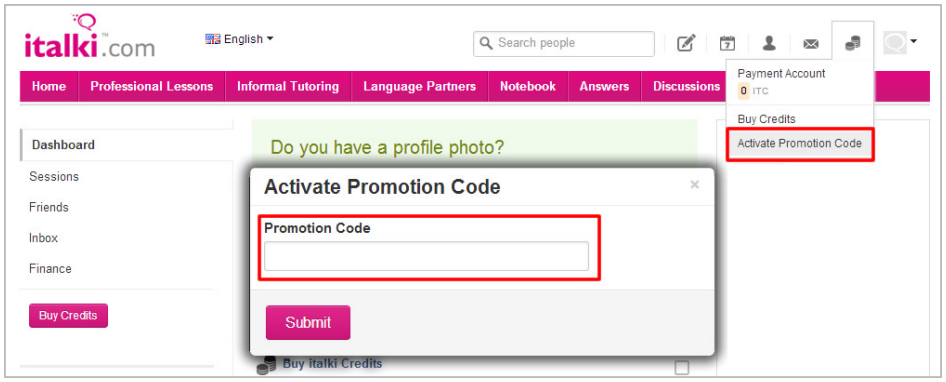
Step 2 Redeem your Instant Immersion Promotion Code

As a valued customer of Instant Immersion, you have been given 50ITC bonus to practice your language skills with a live online teacher! Your promotion code should look something like this:

148T-QFPN-1X2V-26MZ

Activate your Promotion Code

Click on the  icon and select Activate Promotion Code. Enter the Instant Immersion Promotion Code.



Once you Activate your Instant Immersion Promotion Code, **50ITC will be directly deposited into your italki Payment Account.**





What are italki Credits (ITC)?

italki Credits are a virtual currency that is used on italki to schedule language lessons with teachers and purchase tests on italki. Using credits helps protect both students and teachers, and ensure that everyone is satisfied with their lesson. italki Credits are fixed to the US Dollar: **10 ITC = 1 USD**

How do I get more italki Credits?

You can pay for italki Credits using many different payment methods, including: credit card, Paypal, Alipay, Webmoney, Moneybookers, and more. You can purchase italki credits by clicking the buy credits button on the homepage.

Step 3 Find a Language Teacher

There are two types of teachers on italki. Choose the one that suits your current language level and needs.

Professional Teacher	Community Tutor
Professional Teachers are teaching professionals that have been trained in foreign language acquisition. They have one of the qualifications below: • Teach as a job at a school or language institute • Have a university degree in education • Have a teaching certificate (i.e. TESOL) Professional Teachers can offer structured classes. They also are expected to have prepared lesson and course materials when they teach. Professional Teachers can teach all aspects of a foreign language, including oral communication, grammar, pronunciation, writing and more. **If you are new to learning a language, we recommend learning from a Professional Teacher.**	Community Tutors are native speakers (or near native speakers) who can help you learn a language through informal tutoring or speaking practice. Community Tutors are not formally qualified teachers. They do not teach a foreign language for a living nor do they have a degree in education. However, they are **knowledgeable and passionate** about helping others learn their language. Community Tutors offer **informal tutoring** or **speaking practice**. Tutors are not expected to have prepared lessons or a teaching plan. However, they can be your speaking coach, help answer your questions, or correct your essays. It's up to you to decide how to use a Community Tutor. **If you have some basic ability in the language you are learning and want to focus on speaking practice, we recommend learning from a Community Tutor**

Search for Professional Teachers

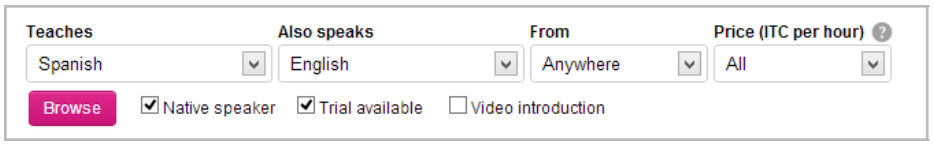
Click on the "Professional Lessons" tab at the top of the Navigation Menu
www.italki.com/teachers/professional

Search for Community Tutors

Click on the "Informal Tutoring" tab at the top of the Navigation Menu
www.italki.com/teachers/tutoring

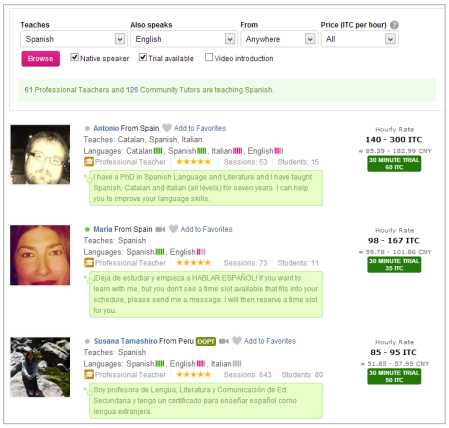


Select your search criteria for your teacher.



For example: Here we are searching for a teacher who teaches Spanish and also speaks English. You can also narrow search criteria on where they are from and their ITC pricing.

The search results will give you a listing of all the teachers that fit in your search criteria.



In this case, the search criteria was:

- Professional Teacher
- Teaches Spanish
- Also Speaks English
- Native Speaker (of Spanish)
- Trial Available

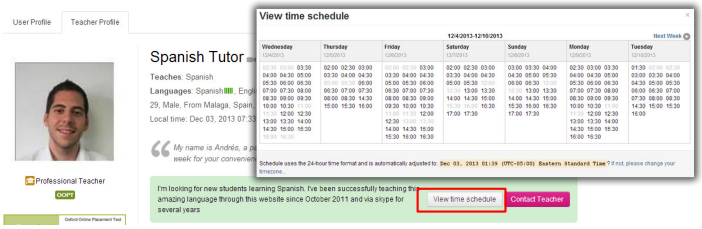
After searching, you can click on the different teacher profiles to find a teacher that you like.

Choosing the Right Teacher

Each teacher is different, so look over their teaching profile carefully. Look carefully at their:

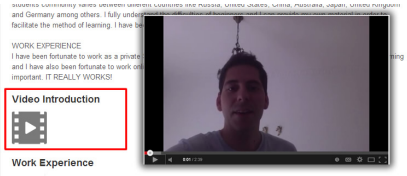
Teaching Schedule

Check their schedule to see if they have a regular time that works for you. The italki scheduler automatically adjusts for time zone differences. **You will see the teacher's schedule according to your time settings.**



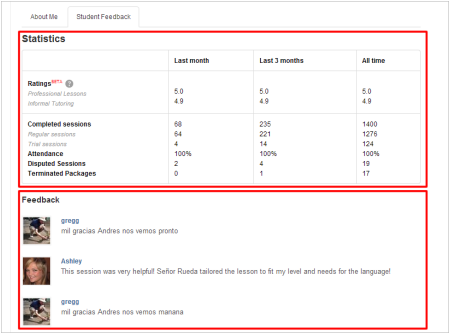
Video Introduction

Watch the teacher's video introduction and you'll get a good idea of their teaching style, personality, language accent and their background.



Teaching Statistics and Student Feedback

Here the teacher's teaching experience, ratings and real feedback from other italki students can be found here.



Trial Session Price

You've been given 50ITCs which is enough for most trial sessions. Each teacher on italki sets their own pricing. Find a teacher that offers Trial Sessions for 50ITC or less.



Step 4 Schedule a Trial Language Lesson

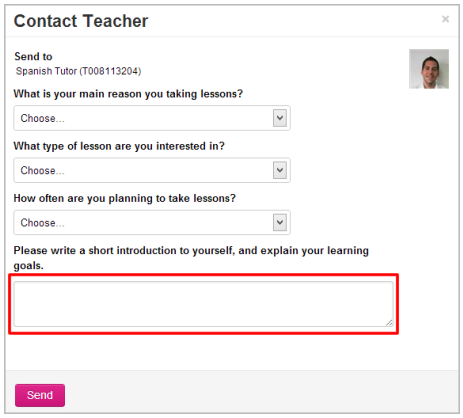
Once you've selected a teacher that you'd like to try out, **contact the teacher**:



Contact Teacher

Fill out the contact form so that the teacher knows how to structure your trial class.

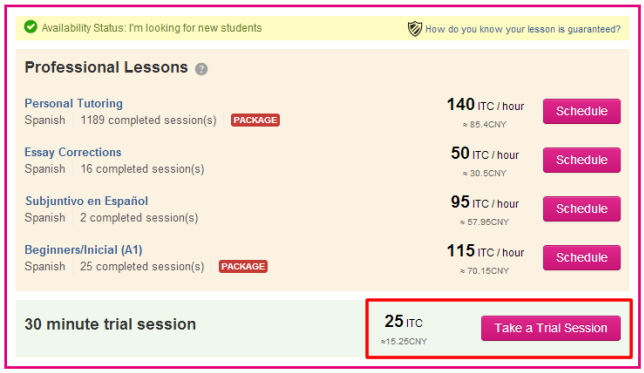
In the section "Please write a short introduction to yourself, and explain your learning goals" let them you what you'd like to review from your Instant Immersion studies.



Tip: We recommend **contacting more than one teacher,** so that you can have a few options. Some teachers may respond quickly, others may take more time. You also want to know which teachers fit your learning style.

Schedule a Trial Session

After you've received a response from the teacher and they've agreed to your trial session go ahead and **schedule a Trial Session** with the teacher by clicking on the "Take a Trial Session" button on the Teacher's Profile Page.



Schedule a Date/Time

Pick the date/time that works for you. Remember, the italki scheduler automatically adjusts for time zone differences. **You will see the teacher's schedule according to your time settings.**

Confirm your SKYPE ID

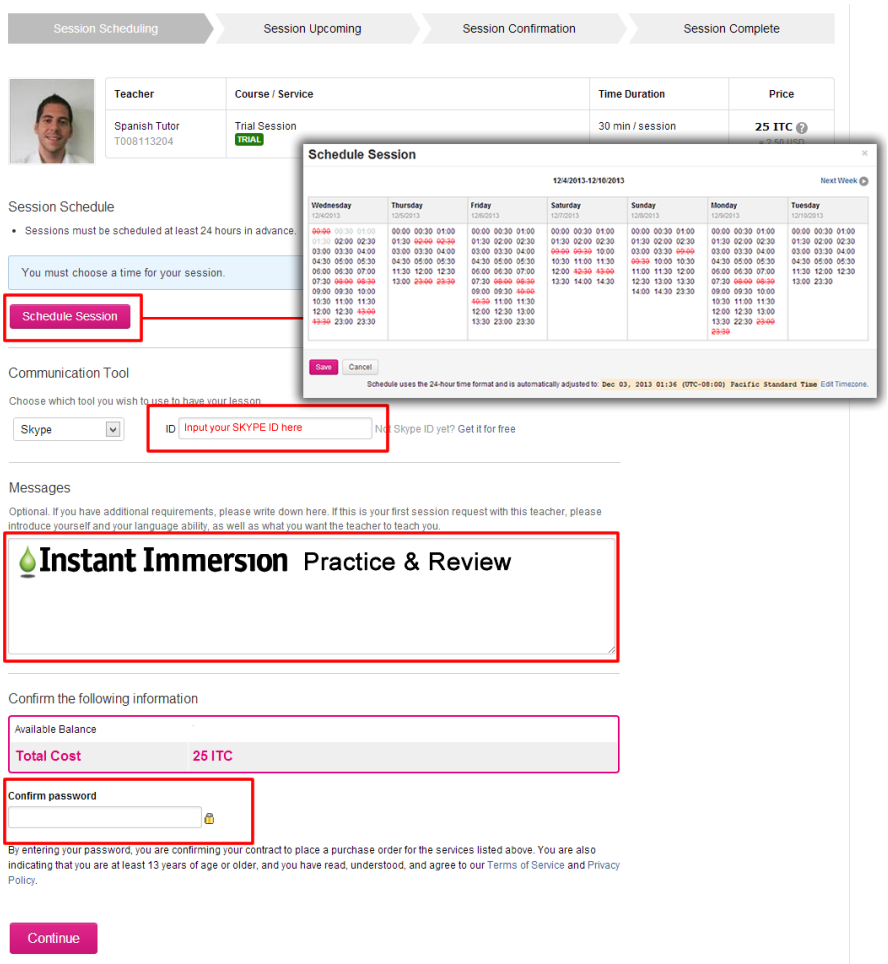
Input your SKYPE ID so your teacher can get in contact with you.
[Don't have SKYPE? Click here]

Message your Teacher

Let your teacher know which sections of Instant Immersion you'd like to practice and review.

Confirm Password

Enter your italki password to confirm the trial session request.



Your italki Credits (ITC) will be moved into italki Escrow Account. After the completed lesson, the italki Escrow Account releases the ITC to the teacher.

Wait for Teacher to Accept your Session Request

The teacher still needs to formally accept your session request. **The teacher has 48-hours to either accept or decline your session (or package) request.** If the teacher does not accept or decline your session request in 48-hours, the session request will automatically expire and your italki Credits (ITC) will be returned to you.

Step 5 Have your Scheduled Online Language Lesson

Session Accepted: Prepare for the Session

When a teacher accepts your request, the session is marked as scheduled. You need to prepare for the session. Please note the following:

Session Time

Your confirmed session time is here. Please be on time!

Session Messages

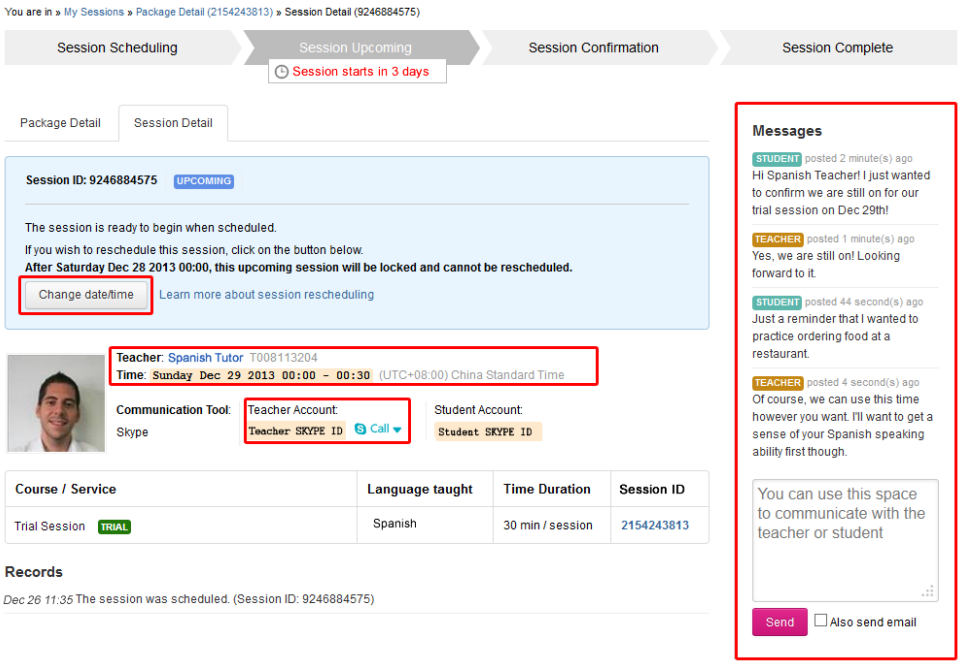
Keep in contact with your teacher by communicating with them often in the session messages until your session begins.

Change date/time

Rescheduling is allowed up until 24 hours of the session.

Teacher SKYPE

Add your Teacher's Skype account (or other VOIP software).



Tip: Getting a live lesson is one of the most exciting parts of italki. Make sure you're on-time and that you're ready! Don't be downloading Skype just before the lesson, searching for your microphone, or going to the bathroom. Your teacher's time is valuable, so be respectful!

Have your Session!

You're now ready to start learning online!
Here are some final recommendations:

- ★ **Be on time**
  In fact, be early! Do not be late.
- ★ **Be prepared on Skype**
  Please check that your microphone is working ahead of time. Do not waste your valuable time with the teacher dealing with technical issues.



Tip: Be polite. This is always a good rule, but it's worth emphasizing. When you meet people from other countries, please be ready for cultural differences and misunderstandings.

Session Completed: After the session

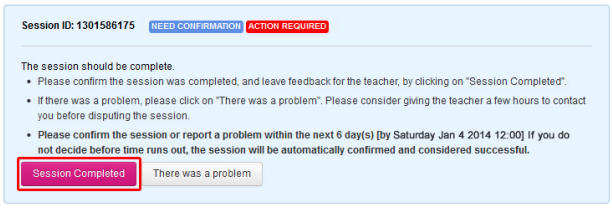
When you're done with the lesson, there are a few important things that you need to do.

Confirm your lesson, rate and review your teacher

This is very important for your teacher.

When you confirm your lesson, your teacher will receive your credits.

When you rate and review your teacher, you'll help other students who are interested in taking a lesson with that teacher.



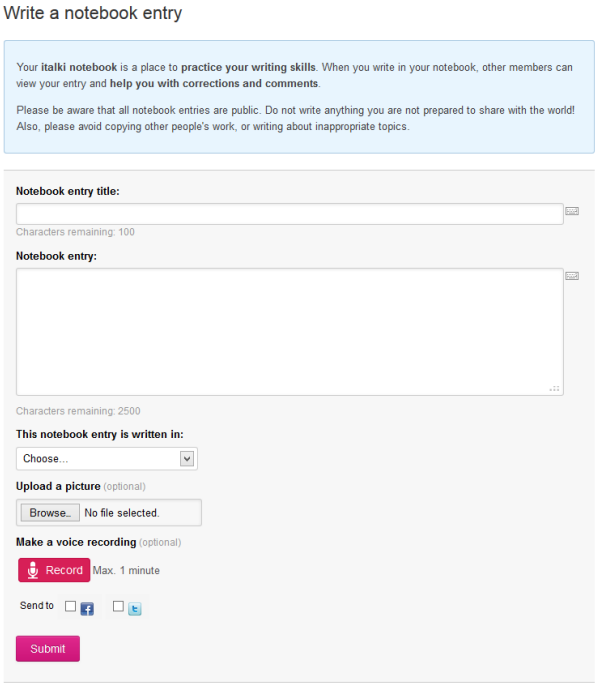
*If you had a problem with your lesson or were dissatisfied in any way send us confidential feedback by emailing support@italki.com

Write down what you learned

If you don't write down what you learned, then you're probably going to forget it. This could be taking down notes, adding words to your flashcards, or simply putting everything into a document that you can check later.

We recommend also using the italki notebook feature to write down the things you learned. It's a good way to keep your notes together.

It's also a way to receive more help from the community. You might meet some language partners this way!



Congratulations! You've just completed your first lesson on italki!

Top 5 Tips for Learning a Language

At italki, we have all been language learners. Here are just a few tips from our staff. We hope this helps!

1. Just get started

If you want to become fluent in another language, don't waste any time -- get started now! Learning a language takes time, so stop thinking about it, and just do it. **Even a long journey begins with a single step.** Start by learning how to say hello. Then learn how to introduce yourself. Whatever you do, just get started!

2. Don't worry about making mistakes

Making mistakes is embarrassing, and nobody wants to sound silly. However, it's a necessary part of learning a language. Nobody became fluent in another language without first sounding like a fool. Expect that you're going to make mistakes, and have the confidence to keep on going. **Don't let embarrassment stop you from learning another language!**

3. Learn how to learn

Everyone learns in a different way. Our view is **try everything**. Get yourself an online teacher, try a language exchange, listen to podcasts, read websites, use language learning apps, watch online videos, write journal entries, ask questions, and get some flashcards. You will find out that some methods work better for you than others. Ask other language students what has worked for them, and share your experiences.

4. Stay motivated

It's easy to lose motivation when you are learning a language. Language experts have estimated that it takes 600 to 2400 hours to become fluent. That's a lot of time! However, the good news is that **you'll definitely become fluent, if you stick with it**. Being consistent is better than cramming. Have a long-term perspective, and try to make a little progress every day!

5. Don't learn alone

Languages are meant to be used for communication. The reason why so many people make slow progress in a school is that they don't use the language for real communication. Don't learn alone. Find a personal teacher from that country to work with you. Make friends with people from that country for language practice and cultural exchange. **With italki, connecting to someone from a foreign country is just a click away.**

Conclusion

Learning a language isn't easy, but you'll make more progress and have more fun when you learn with other people. We're absolutely sure that getting a personal language teacher is the fastest and most affordable way for you to become fluent in a foreign language.

We hope the tips that we've shared are helpful for you.


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