# ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

#### for learning a language

#### Siri

A virtual assistant widely used by Apple Company devices. He/She helps You manage your smartphone or tablet.

#### **Chat GPT**

GPT is an AI language model developed by OpenAI. It can assist you with a wide range of topics, e.g. explain vocabulary or grammar.

#### **Babbel**

A language learning platform developed in Germany. It offers to acquire many popular languages, their grammar, practical vocabulary, which can be used in real life situations.

#### Jenni

Jenni Al helps you produce writing content of any type, including school essays, scientific articles or topranked blog posts. It offers accurate responses to complex queries and updates knowledge base to ensure users become aware of the latest news, trends and developments.

#### **EWA**

EWA is a mobile language learning app that visualizes information in the form of memes from famous movies or TV shows. Here you can read books in the original, and learn new words every day!

#### Duolingo

A game-like app to introduce you to a new language, with over 40 courses to choose from.

# Have You ever wanted to learn a language?

"It's high time to exercise some grammar. I have always wanted to learn French. Spanish is one of the things I would like to learn. My English still isn't as perfect as it should be."

Those thoughts can be exhausting, especially, when it's claimed to be so easy because you can learn everywhere and everything.

Here comes your savior: AI, artificial intelligence. It's another, new way of learning and teaching a foreign language.

It has caused a lot of fuss recently, and this topic is always on the agenda. Artificial intelligence accompanies us in our lives, every day a little bit more. It is hence our duty to make good use of it. We would like to cover some of the most interesting and diverse robots and applications that will be able to help you achieve your goals. We try to assess them regarding four skills that they help develop: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Let's dive into the world of new technologies and discover what it can bring us!

#### Siri

#### **Advantages**

- available everywhere You'd take your device
- wide range of vocabulary used in daily life

#### **Disadvantages**

- only on Apple devices
- reacts only to special commands

#### Conclusion

Siri is a wonderful language teacher for those who possess basic and firm language knowledge. It will help you introduce a foreign language to your daily routine.

This virtual assistant is within reach of those who have one of Apple devices. Have you ever thought that it may teach you a language? Right, if you ask your Siri to teach you something, the best thing it can do is to search that term in your web browser. The magic begins when you change the language Siri uses... In 2022, it supported 21 of the most well-known languages, so there is a broad selection you can choose from. Then, it is enough to learn certain commands in the language you would like to learn, and your daily practice of speaking and listening will be checked.

In English, you can 'wake up' your Siri with a simple 'Hey Siri!'. This will cause your device to make a sound and murmur, 'Mhm...'. Now, you can ask a question, hear a joke, make a call, or set up a meeting in your calendar. Your Siri can also search something for you in a browser or play your favorite music by cooperating with some music apps.

#### Some commands in English

- "Hey Siri, what causes a rainbow?"
- · "Hey Siri, what does a cat sound like?"
- "Hey Siri, what's the derivative of cosine x?"
- "Hey Siri, how do you say Thank You in Mandarin?"
- "Hey Siri, set up a meeting with Gordon at 9" to create an event in Calendar.
- "Hey Siri, add artichokes to my groceries list" to add an item to Reminders.
- "Hey Siri, send a message to PoChun saying love you heart emoji" to send a text using Messages.



#### **Chat GPT**

ChatGPT is an AI language model developed by OpenAI. It can assist you with a wide range of topics and provide information and guidance based on its training on diverse datasets. Whether you have questions, need help with a task, or simply want to engage in conversation, ChatGPT is here to help.

How can GPT help you learn English? It can assist you in learning English in various ways. Here are a few suggestions on how it can help.

**Vocabulary Expansion:** GPT can provide you with synonyms, antonyms, and definitions for words you're interested in. Additionally, AI can help you learn new words and phrases by incorporating them into example sentences. Grammar and Sentence Structure: GPT can help clarify grammatical rules and explain different sentence structures. If you have specific questions about grammar, punctuation, or sentence formation, feel free to ask.

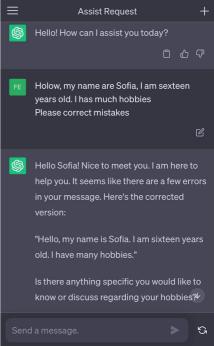
Writing Improvement: You can practice your writing skills by sending paragraphs or essays, and AI can provide feedback and suggestions for improvement. GPT can also help you with sentence construction, coherence, and organization.

Conversation Practice: GPT can engage in conversational practice with you, allowing you to practice your speaking and listening skills. We can discuss various topics and work on improving your fluency and pronunciation.

**Cultural Insights:** Understanding the cultural aspects of a language is crucial for effective communication. GPT can provide information about English-speaking cultures, idiomatic expressions, and social norms to help you better comprehend and utilize the language.

**Reading Comprehension:** If you're interested in practicing your reading skills, it can provide excerpts from articles, stories, or other texts for you to read and then discuss any questions or concepts you may have.



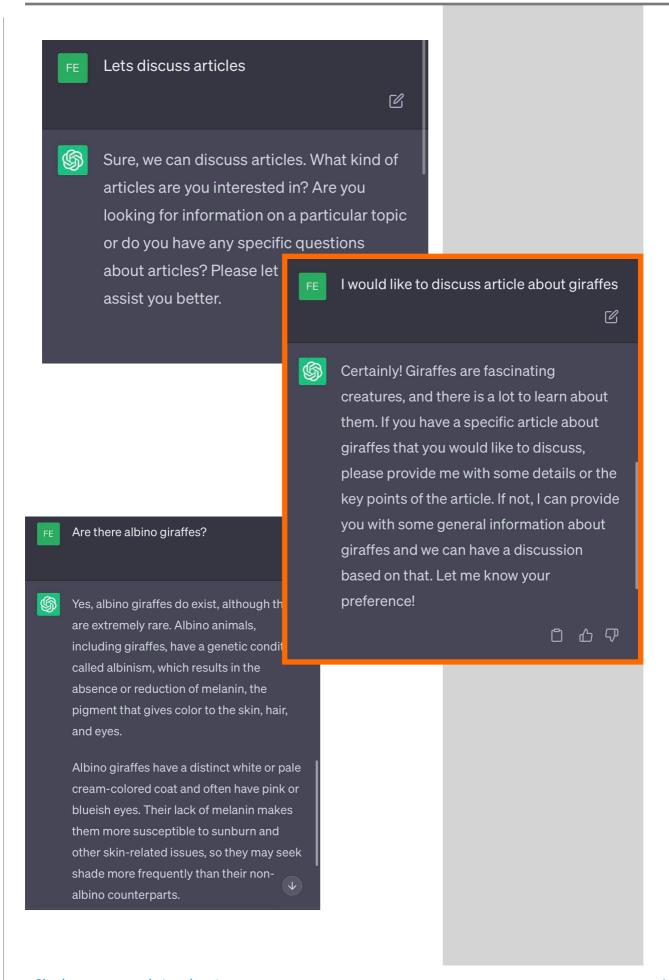


#### Advantages:

- a lot of functions
- ability to discuss articles
- free

#### **Disadvantages:**

 doesn't always have exact answers because
 AI is not perfect (yet?)



#### **Babbel**

Have you ever wanted to find a way to learn a language that would be easy, exciting, and most importantly, effective? It sounds like something impossible. However, such a method does exist. Modern technologies have greatly facilitated the process of acquiring new languages. We can now learn them anywhere and at any time.

# We would like to introduce you to Babbel.

The application allows you to learn Spanish, German, Italian, French, Polish, Portuguese, Turkish, and other languages. You can choose your level and the aspect you want to improve. There are courses available on Grammar, Listening and Speaking, Business Language, Countries and Traditions, Words and Sentences.

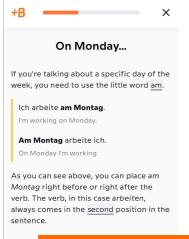
#### Passing the lesson:

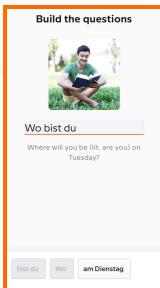
The lessons usually last 15 minutes. They begin with an overview of active vocabulary and phrases that you will use throughout the lesson. You need to listen to the correct pronunciation and repeat it. Then, you have to choose the correct translation for the word or sentence.

In the next section, there is a dialogue based on the everyday conversation. You have to fill in the missing words. This way, you can learn new phrases and understand how to use them in real life.

At the end of the lesson, the focus is on grammar. After you master the basic rules, you have to do the exercises.

Since the lessons are short and intense, you can learn something new in a short period of time.





#### Other features of Babbel

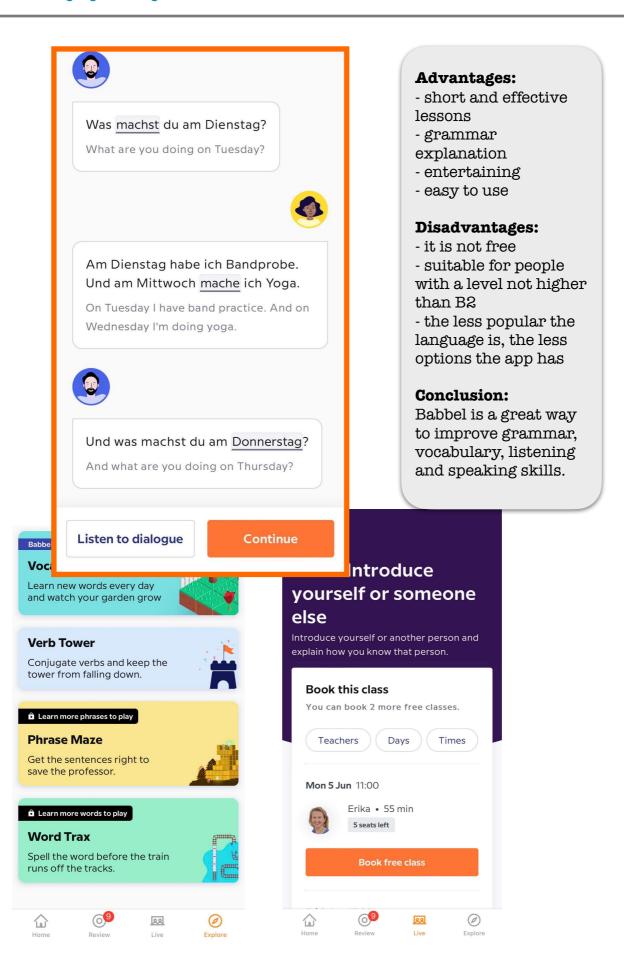
The program has a section where you can revise the studied material. You have to choose a method of reviewing, such as listening, speaking, writing, flashcards, or games.

Accordingly, you will not forget what you have learned. Babbel gives us an incredible opportunity to have classes with teachers and even with native speakers. The first two lessons are free. Groups consist of 6 people, so everyone will have a chance to express themselves.

On this, Babbel continues to surprise us with its functions. The "Explore" section has a selection of podcasts that will help you improve your listening and language comprehension. If you have difficulty understanding the audio, you can read a script with the text and not miss the point of the discussion.

Babbel magazine contains a variety of articles with tips for studying, as well as interesting linguistic studies. This way, you will explore the country's culture more deeply and learn the language better.

Furthermore, Babbel offers educational games for people who do not like the usual approach to language learning. What could be better than learning and playing at the same time?



### Jenni

Do you spend too much time finding reliable information, correcting your spelling errors, and replacing words to make your text more visually appealing? With Jenni AI, you won't have to worry about these problems anymore.

# Description and capabilities

Artificial intelligence writing system Jenni is powered by machine learning and natural language processing. It helps you produce content of any type, including school essays, scientific articles, or top-ranked blog posts. Moreover, understands and causes human-like conversations. Jenni Al is capable of adapting to individual preferences based on continuous interactions, allowing it to provide personalized suggestions. This lets you easily incorporate your stories and experiences, making the content look unique and dynamic.

To start working with Jenni AI, you need to write a prompt on the page, so it will automatically suggest sentences for you. Some of the features in the bottom menu are:

- generate text (create an introduction, an opposing argument, a conclusion, or write it with more depth);
- edit (summarize, peer review, and translate this document);
- cite (quotation suggestions from websites, journals, and other sources);
- image (stock images or embed link)
- As a result of its insightful research on a wide range of topics, Jenni ΑI offers accurate and relevant responses to complex queries. Through the use of the internet. knowledge constantly updated to ensure users are aware of the latest news. trends, and developments.

#### **Advantages**

- easy to use
- checking plagiarism
- free trial length
- correcting spelling errors instantly
- suggesting structural changes

#### **Disadvantages**

- limitations in the free trial
- not so many features
- writing content is good, but not perfect

#### Conclusion

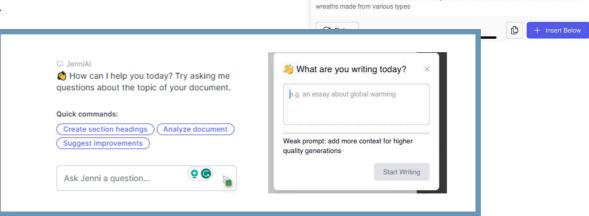
Jenni AI engages with you in meaningful and enjoyable conversations to develop your skills, solve problems, explore new ideas, and increase your efficiency. Whatever you are — a student, a teacher, a language learner, a screenwriter, or a journalist — it can improve your writing and be your private assistant.

The spring season in Ukraine is characterized by a pleasant increase in temperature, longer

daylight hours and the melting of snow. This change signals the start of new beginnings as well as rejuvenation. The beautiful landscape that encompasses much of the country comes back to

life with green vegetation sprouting up once again, and colorful flowers blooming. Perhaps one of the most notable aspects of springtime in Ukraine is how the people celebrate it. Ukrainians

are known for their love and appreciation of traditions, so it comes as no surprise that they have



Write with more depth

#### **EWA**

#### Advantages:

- -The opportunity to learn grammar;
- -Interesting games to memorize new words;
- The opportunity to read books or listen to audiobooks.
- -Lessons based on a movie/cartoon.

#### Disadvantages:

- -a lot of paid lessons.
- -easy tasks
- -lack of rules

#### Conclussion:

For those who want to learn language in a fun way, this app is definitely the right one! Ewa will help you develop your listening skills, reading and vocabulary!

So, how can EWA help you learn English? Immediately after registering, you will see three tabs: courses, library, and games.

Clicking on the courses section, you will find alternating sections devoted to different topics for **vocabulary** and **grammar**. These topics are voiced by characters from famous movies, cartoons, or TV shows. You have to listen and understand what the characters say. After going through all the presented material, such as 10 slides with specific content, you have to take a test to consolidate what you have learned.

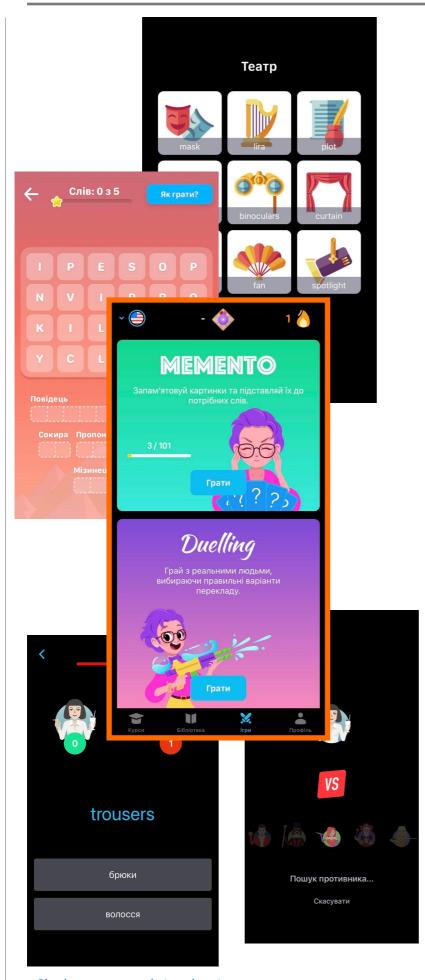
The library tab contains a huge number of books. You can **read** them in their original language and translate paragraphs with just one click. Most words in the books are underlined, indicating that they are in the dictionary. If you come across an unfamiliar word, clicking on it will display all possible translations. You can then add it to your own dictionary and study it later, using various tests to memorize it.

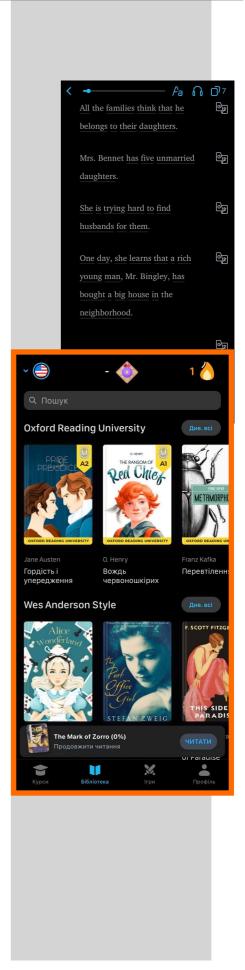


#### Everyone loves games

Last but not least, EWA offers games. Interactive learning that helps to memorize new and useful words! The games include:

- <u>MEMENTO</u>, the essence of which is to memorize a word according to its picture, and then substitute it for the right words. In this game, you can choose the level you need and the topic you are interested in.
- <u>DUELLING</u>, here you can choose an avatar and play with real people choosing the correct translation of the word.
- One of the most interesting and challenging games (in the author's humble opinion) is <u>WORDCRAFT</u>, where you need to find words hidden among the letters. This may seem like an easy task, but once you try it, it's quite possible that you'll change your mind.





## **Duolingo**

Have you ever wanted to embark on learning a new language but found it difficult to start or maintain your progress? Here comes Duolingo to help motivate you and keep your learning on track.

#### Who is it for?

Duolingo is an excellent starting point for learning a new language. It encourages beginners with its wide selection of languages and interactive lessons, which are divided into small daily portions of knowledge. In total, Duolingo offers over 43 different languages (including 2 fictional ones) and provides English courses in 25 languages. The app's claim. creators Duolingo, we're developing our courses to get you to a level called B2." However, to access the more advanced lessons, you need to pass multiple tests. Additionally, more advanced speakers often expect more detailed lessons than what Duolingo provides. Consequently, it primarily appeals to beginners.

# The Gamification of Learning

The app fully leverages a game-like format. Lessons are divided into levels, and successful completion rewards you with XP (experience points). Hearts represent how many mistakes you can make, with



#### Perfect lesson!

You made no mistakes in this lesson

a heart renewing itself every 4 hours. As you learn, you can complete quests, earn achievements, maintain your daily streak, and compete with other app users in tournaments. These elements provide instant satisfaction upon earning them, making Duolingo effective in motivating you to continue learning every day.

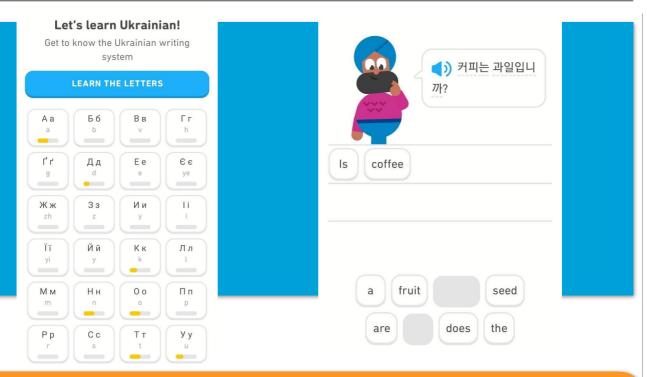
#### **Key Phrases are Key**

The lessons focus on familiarizing you with key phrases. In some languages, each unit includes a brief introduction to the concepts covered in the lessons. However, these introductions are usually Consequently, short. Duolingo heavily relies on memorizing specific words or phrases rather than truly understanding structures. Despite this, the exercises are easy to understand. They test your

reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills through tasks such as choosing the correct meaning of a word, arranging a sentence correctly, or reading a phrase aloud.

# The Duolingo Community

Duolingo has an aspect that may particularly appeal to users: its community. It is the most popular language learning app with over 56.5 million monthly active accounts. The Duolingo community is united not only by the desire to learn languages but also by humor. Countless memes featuring the meticulous green owl or the moody purple girl can be found, along with an ongoing joke about the significance of maintaining your daily streak. And as far as we know, being part of a community is known to be one of the best motivators.



#### **Advantages**

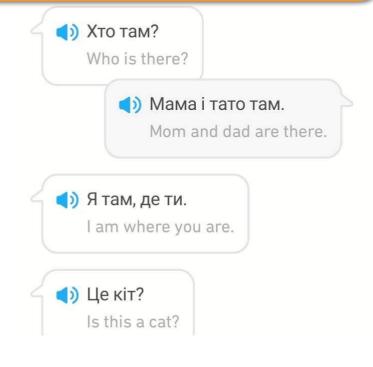
- takes full advantage of the game aspect of the app (levels, own in-game currency, achievements)
- has a wide offer of languages
- a simple and enjoyable design, easy to use
- Free, with optional in-game payments for additional features
- Practices all listening, talking, reading and writing

- It's really beginner friendly – lessons consist of small chunks of vocabulary and repeat exercises a lot

#### **Disadvantages**

- The app doesn't really explain grammar nor structures – all the exercises base on remembering words and example sentences
- Sometimes the vocabulary is random and unuseful if we consider beginner learners
- A limit of lessons one can take a day

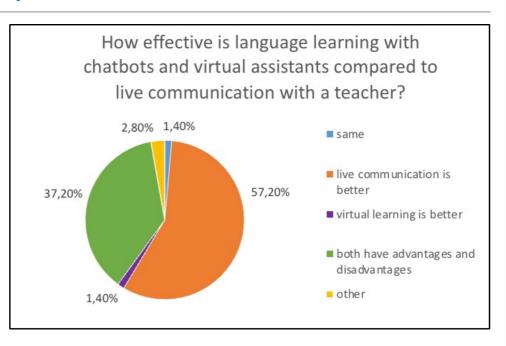




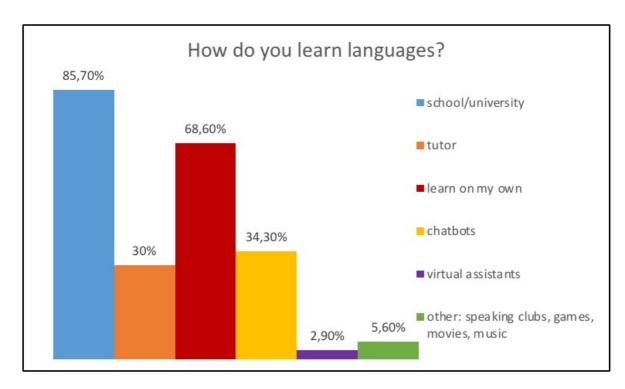
#### **Statistics**

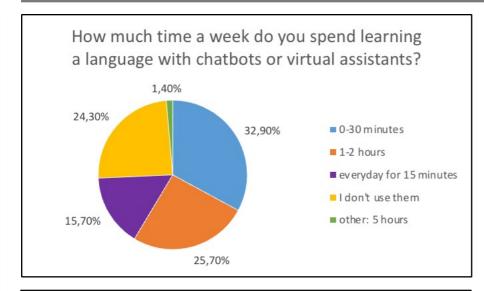
#### based on the survey conducted at Technical Universities in Lviv and Gliwice

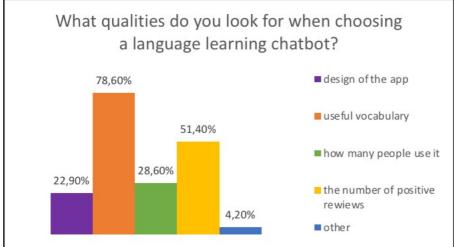
Our survey cunducted in Gliwice (Poland) as well as Lviv (Ukraine) in 2023 has shown some specific trends concerning acquisition of a foreign language. Since the survey have answered been mostly by universities' students, there is no surprise



then that almost all of them learn languages at the university, as well as equally high percentage of students learn on their own. Only one third uses Chatbots or tutor's help. Worth noticing is also the fact, how high students apprise live communication during the process of learning a language.



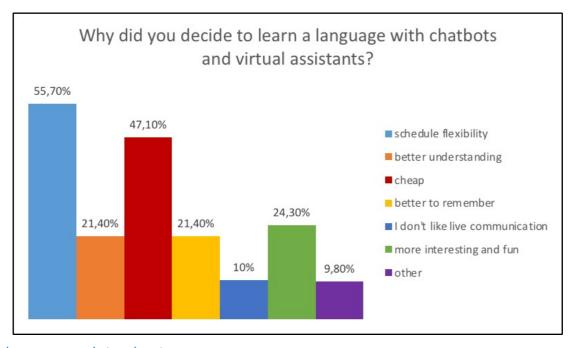




When it comes to the time spend on learning a language, about 30 per cent of the surveyed use chatbots or virtual assistants (if they use them) mostly for 30 minutes or about 1-2 hours a week. And by choosing one of the chatbots or apps, they are above all concerned with useful vocabulary an app offers or the number of positive reviews.

The main reasons why one has chosen to use certain chatbot, app or virtual assistant is flexibility of their schedule (above 50 per cent) or cheapness (slightly under 50 per

cent). Minor part of the participants of the survey has chosen certain app, chatbot or virtual assistant because it allowed them to better remember or better understand the language.



Learning languages unlocks new opportunities for personal and professional growth. It enables you to establish meaningful connections with people from different cultures and discover the vibrant diversity of the world. It empowers you to share your own unique story.

-Marianna Dilai, Ph.D., Lviv Polytechnic National University

To motivate my students to learn a language, I personally would use a quote from someone famous. For instance, I could use the words of an American opera conductor, producer, and impresario, noted for her innovative productions of challenging and difficult works, Sarah Caldwell, who once said: "Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can; there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did."

-Olesya Saban, Lviv Polytechnic National University

State your goals and work regularly. Holidays abroad and taking advantage of your new language skills are motivating as well as obtaining a language certificate. Of course, regular work and schedule of learning are irreplaceable, here comes an app to help you. Challenge yourself and watch a movie in original version, read a book, check your understanding, and don't forget rewarding yourself

> -dr Anna Szkonter-Bochniak, Silesian University of Technology

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