

LANGUAGE EXCHANGE APPS

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Abstract. This article deals with the concept of language exchange. The advantages of using essential language exchange websites and apps are presented to help support everyone with learning a foreign language.

Keywords: language exchange apps, language skills, master multiple languages, professional language tutors.

If you want to speak a new foreign language fluently, you need as much conversational practice as possible. Anyone who has mastered a second language knows this to be true. It is practically the only "secret" to learning a foreign language faster that really works.

The concept of language exchange is very simple. In fact, you find people who are learning your mother tongue and offer to help them. In return, they will help you learn their native language. Traditionally, language exchanges are a two-part conversation. In one part you speak your native language so that your partner can practise his new skills. In the second half of the conversation, you speak your partner's mother tongue and practice your new skills. This activity requires trust, discipline and patience.

There are a huge number of different online platforms for finding the perfect language exchange partner.

1. *HelloTalk* is the leader in language exchange app. But this isn't your standard social app. The interface is packed with innovative tools to make it fun and effortless to learn a new language. New users fill out a profile, and the app suggests similar profiles of people you might enjoy chatting with. The chat

function is very advanced: you can send photos, emoticons and doodles to your new language partners. When you earn each other's trust, you can even send voice messages and make phone calls for free! The free version of HelloTalk will be enough for most learners, but then you can only set up one target language. You should consider a subscription if you're trying to master multiple languages at once [2].

One of the long-standing problems with language exchange is that learners find it difficult to know when to switch roles and use another language. HelloTalk has a handy feature to avoid the awkwardness of trying to be strict with a relative stranger. If you turn on "Language Exchange Mode" you'll get a notification when it's time to switch languages. With so many users, it's a little more suited to those who want to chat than it is to more advanced language exchange. However, HelloTalk deserves its excellent reputation.

2. *Tandem* is a modern language exchange app with millions of users on iOS and Android platforms. This app has a simple registration, intuitive interface. Immediately after registration, the application will help you find suitable partners using filters by language, location, interests and other parameters. You can choose any of the ways of communication: chat, audio messages, video or audio calls. There is a function to correct messages and translations right in the app. More than 160 different languages are available in the app, including 12 sign languages.

3. *Bilingua* is a conversation exchange app designed to be your companion as you enhance and enrich your language skills. Bilingua connects you with native speakers who share your interests or personality to help you learn a foreign language online and speak with confidence. The advantage of Bilingua is that the app combines a modern interface with help in finding "the one". It finds a compatible person with whom you can exchange skills for a certain period of

time. The free app uses a matching algorithm to pair students based on their personality, language level and what they want to talk about [1].

4. *Speaky* is a social network for learning languages and meeting people around the world. The service supports more than 100 languages and reaches an audience of 180 countries. It requires registration via social networks or Google and asks for data on native language and personal information. You can search for interlocutors immediately after authorisation. A separate tab with speakers is available. Use filters to specify the age, gender and country of the desired partner. Unnecessary languages are simply blocked. Communication is conducted in text and voice correspondence. Built-in auto-correct is available.

5. *Preply* wins the award for best language learning app. You can connect to professional language tutors for specialized in-app video lessons. The in-app search function allows you to choose experienced tutors based on important factors including native speakers, availability, price and popularity. There are courses for all levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. You can also easily add words from lessons and practice them in the app to keep them fresh in your memory. The language set allows you to stay motivated, practice outside of lessons and have a language tutor to help you solve all your problems [3].

In conclusion, it is necessary to highlight the main advantages of using apps and websites to communicate with native speakers.

1. *Communication in a comfortable and secure space.* Language exchange services can help you break down language barriers and get rid of bad associations with a foreign language. By communicating with foreigners, you will have fun and get great benefits.

2. *The opportunity for language practice when and where you want.* Language exchange websites also allow you to practise a foreign language during your lunch break at work, on the way home or in the morning with a cup of coffee.

3. *Interaction with native speakers.* All languages have special words and expressions that are grammatically correct but are not used in real life by native speakers. Russian-speaking foreign language teachers can help you learn the basics. But to understand which phrases sound natural in another language, you need to communicate with native speakers.

4. *Discovering another culture.* Your language partner can become a good friend who will not only help you learn a new language, but also introduce you to the peculiarities of their culture. Knowledge about other cultures helps us in personal growth and enriches our worldview [4].

Language exchange apps and websites have all the features you need to communicate comfortably and learn foreign languages effectively. To choose the right one for you, think about the environment in which you most enjoy learning and exchanging ideas with others. By communicating with native speakers, you learn to speak naturally and forget about language barriers. If you practise actively, you will see results very quickly.

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