



# Learning at Home

Support

## LANGUAGES

Years  
11 to 12

For parents and carers



### What you will need:

In order that your young person can remain in contact with their teacher and class - a phone or internet-enabled device may be needed for this purpose. They may need access to the school's agreed means of electronic file sharing and contact information such as the teacher's e-mail address. Find out what Learning Management System or document sharing platform your young person's class will be using.

If possible, provide learning materials and a space for your young person to move or work online. They should also have:

- access to the internet for listening exercises, researching aspects of culture etc.
- the language course reference textbook and workbooks, if the class uses them
- learning materials including bilingual dictionaries (paper and online)
- plenty of lined paper for your young person to write by hand in the language they are learning. If they are learning Chinese or Japanese, they will need pencils and squared paper for practising script.



### How you can help:

- The language learning that your young person will do for extended periods at home will look different from the learning they would usually bring home from school each week. It could also look very different from the language learning you may remember from your school days. It's important to ask your young person how and what they are learning in their chosen language course.
- Learning in the language classroom usually takes place in many very small chunks, followed by practice and review through listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. Don't be concerned if your young person seems to be doing the same thing repeatedly in different ways – encourage them to work in this way!
- Verbal communication is fundamental to our language courses, so it is important to encourage your young person to maintain a form of contact with their teacher that allows for verbal communication. This could be done via an online conferencing platform, which would add the benefit of visual cues. However, a simple phone call will also provide opportunities for your young person to develop their speaking skills.
- Encourage the practice of vocabulary and structures. This is best done by handwriting words and phrases. You can help by offering to read the English while your young person writes down the translation in the language they are learning.



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- Encourage your young person to find materials online or in the textbook that they can read in the target language. See new texts as a mystery challenge: try to deduce meanings first, then look up words that are unfamiliar.



### Complementary activities

- Video hosting services such as YouTube and Vimeo store video clips that teach aspects of the language your young person is learning. They are particularly useful for practising listening skills.
- SBS offers a wide range of movies with classifications in the language your young person is learning. Even if they do not understand the dialogue, listening to pronunciation and intonation is still of great benefit and will increase intercultural understanding.
- Social media can be a way for your young person to try communicating with other members of their class using the language they are learning.

### Links to more information:

- [Learning at home](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/learning-at-home/)<sup>1</sup> on the Department of Education website

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