

Suggestions for learning in this course

1. Handling files

Several weeks before a text is used in class, it will be uploaded to the website. Please download all the files and print out those which are in PDF format. Whenever you join a class via ZOOM, please have the story and/or worksheets on paper in front of you.

2. Reading and listening

Many of our lessons will include stories. In the case of a story, before class, please read the text and listen to the recording at least once. Several times would be even better. As you read the story and listen to the recording, you will encounter many new words and expressions. Please mark these on your paper. Feel free to use a dictionary to help you understand. During the class (ZOOM meeting), it is a good idea for you to mention these instances as we read the text together. Other students may have also had the same problems in understanding. Other students and the teachers can help explain the words and expressions to give you a deeper understanding of how and why they are used in the story.

As you listen to the recordings, please pay attention, not only to the pronunciation of the words, but also to the phrasing (which words are spoken together), the stress (which words are emphasized), and the pauses between phrases. Please pay particular attention to the intonation of the sentences, (the rise and fall of the voice). Sometimes, you might pause the recording and repeat what you have heard. When you repeat the sentences, try to use the same pronunciation, phrasing, stress, pause, and intonation.

Sometimes, students who want to do so, will have the opportunity to read aloud during the class. If you participate in this, the teachers will assist you in reading with the correct stress and intonation.

Some points for you to consider are:

- A question mark usually indicates rising intonation. (Your voice should go up.)
- A period indicates falling intonation. (Your voice should go down.)
- An exclamation point indicates emphasis. (The sentence or expression should be read in a strong voice.) For example: "I am Alavaka!" "Help!"
- Always pause at the end of each sentence.
- A comma indicates a slight pause.
- The pause after a semicolon should be a little longer.

3. Recording

It might be beneficial for you to record the ZOOM meetings and listen to or watch each one for review to help you become familiar with the material.

4. Keeping a notebook

In a special notebook, please write down new things as they come up; e.g., new words, new expressions, new idioms, new grammar points, or anything else. Review your notebook regularly. Also, whenever a question arises, write it in your notebook so that you can bring it up in class.

N.B. There is scientific proof that physically writing something on paper is more effective than only looking it up online, taking a screenshot, or typing on an electronic device. We remember (and learn) much more if we write it with pen and paper.

5. Interacting with other students

Listen to your fellow students. As much as possible, direct your speech to them, and not just to the teachers. You are all in this learning situation together. Their experiences are different from yours. They can learn a lot from you, and you will be able to learn a lot from them.

6. Asking questions

Don't pretend that you understand when you don't! Many students feel shy about asking a question or think that it is impolite to say that they don't understand something. The importance of every class is for the students to learn. If you do not understand something, you cannot *learn* it. If *you* do not understand something, there are probably other students who also do not understand. If you ask a question, everyone benefits. There is no such thing as a bad question!

7. Learning vs Teaching

Instructors are often called "teachers." However, it is our belief that no one can really "teach" anyone anything. Anyone can, however, "learn" many things. We feel that, in this class, it is our duty to provide a situation, an atmosphere, where students can learn. We will present a lot of material which we feel is important. It is your duty to try to understand the material. We can help you understand it, but you have to make it your own.