

Language Assignments to 3/3 LDPs

All estimates relating to the length of time needed to learn these languages to a S-3/R-3 proficiency level assume that the student is a native speaker of English with no prior knowledge of the language to be learned. It is also assumed that the student has very good or better aptitude for classroom learning of foreign languages; less skilled language learners typically take longer. Although languages are grouped into general "categories" of difficulty for native English speakers, within each category some languages are more difficult than others.

Category I. ("World languages") Languages closely cognate with English.
Weeks to achieve goal: 24-30 (600—750 class hours)

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|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Danish (24 weeks) | 4. Italian (24 weeks) | 7. Romanian (24 weeks) |
| 2. Dutch (24 weeks) | 5. Norwegian (24 weeks) | 8. Spanish (24 weeks) |
| 3. French (30 weeks) | 6. Portuguese (24 weeks) | 9. Swedish (24 weeks) |

Category II. Languages that take a little longer to master than Category I languages.
Weeks to achieve goal: 36 (900 class hours)

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. German (36 weeks) | 3. Indonesian (36 weeks) | |
| 2. Haitian Creole (36 weeks) | 4. Malay (36 weeks) | 5. Swahili (36 weeks) |

Category III. ("Hard languages") Languages with significant linguistic and/or cultural differences from English (Note: *This list is not exhaustive*)
Weeks to achieve goal: 44 (1100 class hours)

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|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Albanian | 18. Hindi | 35. Sinhala |
| 2. Amharic | 19. Hungarian | 36. Slovak |
| 3. Armenian | 20. Icelandic | 37. Slovenian |
| 4. Azerbaijani | 21. Kazakh | 38. Somali |
| 5. Bengali | 22. Khmer | 39. Tagalog |
| 6. Bulgarian | 23. Kurdish | 40. Tajiki |
| 7. Burmese | 24. Kyrgyz | 41. Tamil |
| 8. Czech | 25. Lao | 42. Telugu |
| 9. Dari | 26. Latvian | 43. Thai |
| 10. Estonian | 27. Lithuanian | 44. Tibetan |
| 11. Farsi | 28. Macedonian | 45. Turkish |
| 12. Finnish | 29. Mongolian | 46. Turkmen |
| 13. Georgian | 30. Nepali | 47. Ukrainian |
| 14. Greek | 31. Pashto | 48. Urdu |
| 15. Gujarati | 32. Polish | 49. Uzbek |
| 16. Hausa | 33. Russian | 50. Vietnamese |
| 17. Hebrew | 34. Serbo-Croatian | |

Category IV. ("Super-hard languages") Languages which are exceptionally difficult for native English speakers.
Weeks to achieve goal: 88 (2200 class hours)

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|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Arabic | 3. Japanese |
| 2. Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) | 4. Korean |

Conversion Training in Related Languages

(SLS strongly encourages you to consult the Language Training Supervisor)

Closely related languages: (average length of training assignment 10-12 wks)

- Czech 3/3 ⇔ Slovak 3/3
- Serbo-Croatian 3/3 ⇔ Croatian variant 3/3 ⇔ Serbian variant 3/3 Bosnian variant 3/3
- Macedonian 3/3 ⇔ Bulgarian 3/3
- Indonesian 3/3 ⇔ Malay 3/3

Related languages: (average length of training assignment 14-18 wks)

- Thai 3/3 ⇔ Lao 3/3
- Russian 3/3 ⇔ Ukrainian 3/3
- Spanish 3/3 ⇔ Portuguese 3/3

Other Related Languages:

- Germanic 3/3 ⇔ Germanic 3/3 (18 to 22 wks)
(Germanic languages: Dutch, German, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish)
- Slavic 3/3 ⇔ Slavic 3/3 (30 to 36 wks)
(Slavic languages: Bulgarian, Serbo-Croatian, Czech, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian)

(Converting Bulgarian or Macedonian 3/3 to Russian 3/3 typically requires the full 44-week course.)