

Nombre: _____

Hora: _____

Thinking in a Foreign Language: Tips 2-3

This quarter, we will practice two new tips from the Lingholic blog post on Thinking in a Foreign Language. Log your practice here, rather than on Canvas.

Record 20 times you implemented a tip for thinking in Spanish or a strategy from the AAPPL test.

Log #	Date	Tip/Strategy Implemented	Specify and Reflect
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Nombre: _____

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Thinking in a Foreign Language

Excerpted from a blog post by Lingholic

How do I do it?

Tip #1

We spent the first semester creating language bubbles around ourselves by making Spanish a part of our lives. Assuming your language bubble is still in place, we are adding more!

Tip #2 (label “TIFL 2” on log)

The second step is to **start making a conscious effort to describe things around you in your target language**. One easy way to start when you have a very limited vocabulary is to just look around your room, your neighborhood, and your workplace/school and mentally label whatever you can. If you know colors, scan whatever is around you and think the word for the color of each item you see. If you have recently been learning about furniture, adjectives, or moods, try the same thing with those. Whatever vocabulary and grammatical patterns you are currently learning at the moment, make a conscious effort to think in your target language using those newly-acquired tools. See it as a game, something to enjoy doing.

As you begin to increase your vocabulary little by little, start gradually increasing the complexity of your thoughts by making phrases and by describing what’s going on around you. Don’t jump steps and try expressing complex thoughts that are in sharp contrast with your current level, though. For example, don’t try to say “I wish I would’ve been there” if you are still a beginner in your target language, because the grammar involved is too complex. Instead, simplify what you want to say. You could say something like “I want to go there,” or “I wanted to go there but I couldn’t.” Don’t worry, in due time you’ll reach a point where you’ll be able to say more complex things, there is no rush!

Tip #3 (label “TIFL 3” on log)

If you are a bit more advanced in your target language, as you go about your day try to **think through some typical conversations** you would normally have in your native tongue. As you’re leaving your apartment, your neighbor greets you. What would they have said and how would you have replied in your target language? On the way to work, you stop to buy a cup of coffee. How would you order that in your target language? If there are some common words and expressions that you find yourself unable to express, especially on repeated occasions, write them in a small notebook or in your smartphone, and in the evening find the translations. That’s an extremely useful way to quickly gain useful vocabulary that you know you are likely to use in everyday situations.