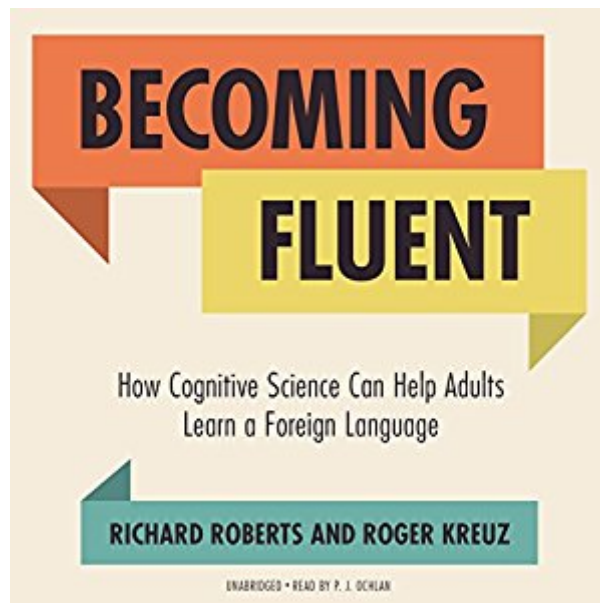




The book was found

Becoming Fluent: How Cognitive Science Can Help Adults Learn A Foreign Language



Synopsis

Adults who want to learn a foreign language are often discouraged because they believe they cannot acquire a language as easily as children. Once they begin to learn a language, students may be further discouraged when they find the methods used to teach children don't seem to work for them. What is an adult language learner to do? In *Becoming Fluent*, Richard Roberts and Roger Kreuz draw on insights from psychology and cognitive science to show that adults can master a foreign language if they bring to bear the skills and knowledge they have honed over a lifetime. Adults shouldn't try to learn as children do, they should learn like adults. Roberts and Kreuz report evidence that adults can learn new languages even more easily than children. Children appear to have only two advantages over adults in learning a language: they acquire a native accent more easily, and they do not suffer from self-defeating anxiety about learning a language. Adults, on the other hand, have the greater advantages - gained from experience - of an understanding of their own mental processes and knowing how to use language to do things. Adults have an especially advantageous grasp of pragmatics, the social use of language, and Roberts and Kreuz show how to leverage this metalinguistic ability in learning a new language. Learning a language takes effort. But if adult learners apply the tools acquired over a lifetime, it can be enjoyable and rewarding.

Book Information

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#633 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Medicine

Customer Reviews

This fascinating book sits at the intersection of linguistics and cognitive science, but it might not be for everyone. The authors provide a lot of commentary on the language-learning experience, often

with their own personal anecdotes. The book provides a lot of different angles to view the question of "fluency" from, though it isn't organized with any particular narrative. If you've read something like *Fluent in 3 Months: How Anyone at Any Age Can Learn to Speak Any Language from Anywhere in the World* for the language-learning, and you've read *You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and 46 Other Ways You're Deluding Yourself* to help you better understand your own humanity, this book fills in a gap between the two that can provide a lot of support and understanding of the depth of learning a language, the kind you don't get from a yellow box purchased on late-night TV. This book covers things like overcoming the Confirmation Bias, leveraging your adult brain to learn language more efficiently than kids do, and accepting that maybe keeping your foreign accent is better than going native.

This book is about more than language learning, even though that is its main theme and why I bought it. I learned much about how the mind works, how we remember, how adults learn in different ways than children do. It is an upbeat book, with helpful advice and examples from the two author's own language learning experiences.

Here's a short book chock full of tips for adult language learners -- just enough theory that you understand it, and each chapter is stuffed with insights to succeed. As I read it, I was nodding about strategies that worked in the past, and highlighting tips for aspects that frustrated me. Biggest tip: it's easier to re-learn old material than start from scratch.

I found this book really easy to read and informative. It helped me understand many of the issues I have faced as an adult language learner. Learning about how memory works and how to capitalise on personal strengths and learning preferences will really give me a way forward as I continue my journey. Happy to recommend this book.

I loved this book! As a lifetime language learner, I found a lot of helpful tips. But what I most loved about the book is that I learned a lot about cognitive science in general, which will help me in much more than language learning. Lots of A-HA moments here!!! Highly recommended.

Very nice review of why "older folks" can be adept at learning a new foreign language. It reviews some biologic phenomena, forming the main thrust of the book: 1.: Prepubertals "naturally" pick up

language 2. Adults need to learn a foreign language differently, but are better equipped for that, due to life experience. I have some background in linguistics and neurobiology, so I didn't find anything new (to me) in the book. Enjoyable read, nevertheless.

It was too interesting to read this book. Personally, here are more good ideas to try. Some things were in my mind before, but the book help me systematic them.

Thrully change my mind set

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