



A

Level A Learning Path for Second Official Language Training (Self-Directed)

➤ Informal language training (self-directed)

If you are thinking of improving your second official language skills, **self-directed learning tools** are highly recommended as a first step – for any language. Once you have a basic understanding of a new language, you'll have a greater chance of benefitting from formal training.

However, if you're looking for information on formal language training, your manager remains **your first point of contact**.

➤ Formal language training – Tool for managers

- Formal language training in the [National Capital Region \(NCR\)](#)
- Formal [Regional](#) Language Training (Outside the NCR)

Note: some links in this document are accessible only on the Government of Canada network.

Level A learning path (self-directed)

There are many ways to learn another language. We recommend a learning path that includes the five major components of language learning:

- comprehension (oral and written)
- vocabulary
- pronunciation
- grammar
- fluency

Note that the activities proposed in both official languages are not necessarily identical due to the distinctive nature of each language. It's up to you, of course, to choose what you want to work on and in which order. **Happy learning!**

1. Use the Mauril app regularly

Complete beginner levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 of [Mauril](#). You can download the app on your work or personal phone. Mauril uses authentic content from Radio-Canada and CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation). If you're not sure where to start, we suggest you first take the placement test offered in the tool.

(See the [accessibility criteria](#) for the Mauril.)



2. Develop your work vocabulary

The Language Portal of Canada offers bilingual and unilingual [glossaries and dictionaries](#) that you can use to develop and enrich your work vocabulary. You can use a notebook, Excel, OneNote or any other tool to jot down and regularly review the vocabulary you want to work on. Like all government web pages, the pages of the Language Portal of Canada are accessible.

Also, some websites recommend using [flashcards](#), which can be a very efficient way to review and memorize your new vocabulary. Most of these sites offer apps for iOS and Android, as well as websites compatible with most browsers on Windows and Mac. TTS (Text to Speech) audio playback is often also available.

You can also use the following tools to develop basic vocabulary and grammar.

For French:

- [The French Tutorial - Table of contents](#)
- [Jeux et exercices en ligne, apprendre le français en s'amusant \(ortholud.com\)](#) (in French only)
- [Alloprof \(Français\)](#) (in French only)
- [Cap sur le FLE](#) (in French only)
- [USITO – Dictionnaire du français nord-américain](#) (in French only)

For English:

- [Alloprof \(Anglais\)](#)
- [IXL English language arts](#)
- [Learn American English Online](#)
- [LearnEnglish](#)
- [Learner's Dictionary by Merriam-Webster](#)



3. Improve your pronunciation

The following websites offer pronunciation exercises. Start with the beginner exercises for pronouncing vowels, numbers and basic verbs. These sites contain a wealth of exercises for you to explore.

For French:

- [Phonétique \(phonetique.ca\)](#) (in French only)
- [Exercices de phonétique et de prononciation \(podcastfrancaisfacile.com\)](#) [Phonetics and pronunciation exercises] (in French only)

For English:

- [Les fondamentaux de la prononciation anglaise \(LLCERAnglais.fr\)](#) [Fundamentals of English pronunciation]
- [BBC Learning English – Pronunciation](#)
(The BBC website has several [accessibility features](#)).



4. Register for an online self-learning tool

You can use Public Service and Procurement Canada's standing offers to register for the [Online self-study program](#) (LRDG Program) available across Canada for both French and English. Check

with your manager to see if this training program is available in your organization before registering. For an overview of **costs**, see [Rates: Online self-study program and virtual tutoring](#).

If you're not sure where to start, we suggest you first take the diagnostic test offered in the tool. The suggested modules to reach level A are **modules 0 to 5**. The LRDG platform has been assessed in accordance with [EN 301 549 \(2018\) standard, which includes WCAG 2.1](#).

Some well-known commercial online language self-learning products can also be used. Some of these are free or partially free, while others are not.



5. Use your second official language orally on a regular basis

Here are a few level A challenges that you can do with a colleague or friend in your second official language. Repeat these short activities until your rhythm and pronunciation become natural.

For French

- Name your three main tasks.
- Use the verb “avoir” to refer to things that belong to you.
- Use the verb “faire” to talk about what you can do.
- Use the verb “être” to briefly describe yourself.
- Use the verb “aimer” to talk about what you like.

For English

- Name your three main tasks.
- Use the verb “to be” to briefly describe yourself.
- Use the verb “to like” to talk about what you like.
- Use the verb “to have” to refer to things that belong to you.
- Use the verb “to do” to ask a few simple questions.

To maximize your chances of success

- Tell people around you that you're learning your second official language. This will make oral practice much easier later.
- Trust yourself. Select realistic second language challenges, especially at level A.
- Read bilingual office emails to identify and develop useful work-related vocabulary.
- Alternate between active and passive listening. Expose yourself to the second language through listening, reading and culture. Focus on **authentic** language exchanges.