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Learn a language here

Your neighbors are learning to speak German, Spanish and French. They're also learning Japanese, Russian, Turkish, Czech and even American Sign Language—online at their computers. Maybe you've wanted to learn a new language yourself but find it hard to make it to classes. Now, as a Timberland Regional Library (TRL) cardholder, you can take [language lessons](#) at home on your personal computer and in some cases your MP3 player. What's more, there are no fees for taking the courses.

TRL recently added two [language-learning programs](#) called “Mango” and “Rocket” to its list of online public resources. Lessons are self-paced, interactive, visually appealing and engaging. Each program will “remember” where you stopped each time you log off. The courses also offer lessons in the cultures where the languages are spoken.

Mango

[Mango](#) offers 34 foreign languages at this time, as well as English as a second language for speakers of 15 other languages. Mango allows learners to hear and see the language and to record their own voices for comparison. Each screen has a replay button, so it can be repeated as desired.



The languages in greatest demand—such as Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian and Chinese—have three levels of instruction: basic, for common situations and polite conversation; intermediate; and an in-depth course for learning comprehensive language and grammar skills. Most other courses, such as Czech, Korean and Urdu provide basic and in-depth courses. A few, such as Dari, Pashto and Tagalog, provide a basic course only.

Rocket

[Rocket](#) offers courses for 11 different languages including American Sign Language and English for Spanish-speakers. A learner can stream the lessons using a computer or download them to a mobile device. Students learn and speak by taking part in modern, everyday conversations. Games are included to build vocabulary and improve audio recognition of common words and phrases.

Getting started

To begin learning a new language, go to www.TRL.org on your Internet computer. Under the drop-down menu titled “Research,” select “Reference Databases,” then select the subject “[Language](#).” In Mango, register with an email address, and then confirm an email sent to you from Mango. Getting started in Rocket is even easier. For Rocket’s free library-sponsored courses, be sure you register your name and email address first. Then, choose your language and begin! A microphone and speakers will enhance the learning experience, but are not required.

For more information, contact your local Timberland Regional Library branch or go to www.TRL.org.