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ELA 11

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Outline

# Learning another language

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## Paragraph 1: Setting

### Main Idea

I was watching anime. Armando and Ian were learning it. I already had experience with Spanish. It was a big task to take on alone.

### Detail 1

I had taken Spanish for more than 5 years.

### Detail 2

I watched most anime in Japanese, so what could trying hurt?

## Paragraph 2: The Decision

### Main Idea

I was excited and found resources, so it would be fairly easy to begin.

### Detail 1

I used Mirai Language Systems which were audio with an explanation of writing. Five dollars apiece. It was a fine trade off. It couldn't hurt.

### Detail 2

I always had my friends to ask questions to.

### **Paragraph 3: Results**

#### **Main Idea**

Good.

#### **Detail 1**

I became more motivated & independent.

#### **Detail 2**

I became interested in the culture.

### **Paragraph 4: How Life Would be Different**

#### **Main Idea**

Interests

#### **Detail 1**

They would be in a different place. I would have given up on anime long ago.

#### **Detail 2**

No Hanja. Without this little itty-bitty decision, my life could be more boring in a million ways.

### **Paragraph 5: What I Learned**

#### **Main Idea**

I can have fun and do something I like.

#### **Detail 1**

Japanese.

#### **Detail 2**

I can do other things as well.

### **Other Information**

Pimsleur Approach

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## Decisions

Watching anime has been something I've been doing in my spare time for a while. As I immersed myself more and more into it, I realized that I often only had the option of English subtitles if I wanted to watch anything good. Although not practical, to remedy the situation my first thought was, *I should just learn Japanese*. I had two friends who I could ask questions if I needed, and I would be able to just do the rest myself. I already had experience in learning Spanish—I took it in school for five years—so I had some idea of what I was doing. The only problem was that I didn't know if I could throw myself into such a big topic field without any immediate help.

After a not-so-grueling search for resources, I found Mirai Language Systems in the app store, and the Japanese one was only five dollars. Overall, it had great reviews, too. It was enough to get me started and I had enough money in my account to buy it; the timing was perfect. So, after seeing that the first lesson I took was a success, I continued on. During lessons I took notes and made index cards for the vocabulary, and afterward I took the quizzes. It worked out well for me until I began to realize that just the vocabulary and grammar weren't helping me the way I hoped. So, I bought a conversation-based program called the Pimsleur Approach, in which I would listen to a person talk and then respond when prompted and in the allotted time. It forced me to think like I was having an actual conversation and apply all of what I had learned while it also was teaching me new things.

Ultimately, the decision to take up learning Japanese was a good one. It occupied me and allowed me to become more independent in my learning. I didn't have grades so I could do whatever helped me most outside of the app without worrying about unnecessary or confusing assignments. The app allowed me to find my own way to study and remember information.

Without Mirai, I'd never have felt as strongly about other languages and cultures, because in addition to teaching me the language, Mirai also taught me about the Japanese culture. Without this, I never would have taken up the opportunity to create Hanja, my business, which is based off of the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese cultures and the idea that culture is something to be respected. Hanja is becoming a bigger part of my life every passing day and I would have never been able to experience this without having introduced myself to Japanese. Also, I have evoked a curiosity within myself that can by no means be quenched knowing the minimal amount of Japanese I have now. I will continue on with this venture for sure.

In the end, I learned that I can do something I like if I take the initiative. I can't just sit back waiting for these chances to come to me. I can do anything I want if I am devoted enough to the cause. My previous experiences allow me to be confident in what I choose now. I am not afraid to do something a little risky or seemingly foolish anymore.