



1. Welcome to our video on language use in tandem.
2. We will talk about why and when it can be helpful to switch to a **lingua franca** instead of using one of the two target languages.
3. Tandem learning always consists of two languages – the mother tongues of the two native speakers. Is that really so? In regular tandem partnerships, **basic knowledge** in the target language is **necessary for a successful cooperation**, and the use of a lingua franca like English is not considered necessary by many researchers. It is true that **using a third language regularly** might **hinder** your acquisition of the “real” target language.
4. Still, if you imagine that you are spending a semester abroad where you can select every class in English and not in the local language – do you really need the local language then? At least not for your studies.
However, if you’d like to go shopping on the local market, have a chat with the personnel in your student residence, or you just want to show a bit of respect to the local people, a **couple of phrases in the local language** can be an ideal door opener to get in touch with locals in a different way. They will highly appreciate your goodwill.
5. Especially if this is the case and you would like to learn from a tandem partner from that place while having **very little knowledge** of his native language, being able to communicate with him is absolutely necessary, not only for both your motivation’s sake.
6. In order to keep your conversation alive, you can – if necessary – refer to a lingua franca in the following situations (especially if you are both beginners):
 - Every time you feel your **knowledge** in the target language is **not sufficient**, for example at the very beginning, to **overcome inhibitions or fear to speak**.
 - When you **organise** your tandem and thus practise competences like planning or scheduling tasks which – in the future – can be important job requirements
 - When you talk **about** the language, for example by **providing corrections**.
 - When you reflect on **technical topics** that occurred during your tandem session.
 - When you’re exchanging **intercultural information**.

7. An alternative, temporary solution for beginners could be the so-called “**receptive multilinguism**”: Each partner speaks only his or her native language. This provides good practice for listening comprehension skills and can also help overcome inhibitions or fear to speak. The precious *output* in the foreign language is missing, though.

Therefore, stick to this rule of thumb: Try to **increase the duration of using the target language** with each meeting.

That way, the lingua franca has only the **functional importance** to keep up your conversation and motivation.

8. We hope you are more relaxed now about using a lingua franca if needed!

Notes:



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