

The Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory (BALLI): Teacher Version

This version adapted with changes from

Gass, S., & Selinker, L. (2001). *Second language acquisition*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Horwitz, E. K. (2008). *Becoming a language teacher: A practical guide to second language learning and teaching* (pp. 233-234). Boston, MA: Pearson, Allyn and Bacon.

Directions: For each item, indicate whether you (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) neither agree nor disagree (4) agree or (5) strongly agree. For questions 19 and 28, select the number that most closely corresponds to your opinion.

1. A normal child can learn any language with equal ease.
2. Younger children learn a second language at a faster rate than older children.
3. Most children can acquire native level proficiency in a second language within 1-2 years.
4. All children can learn a second language accent free.
5. Language instruction is a waste of time.
6. To the child, language is an instinct.
7. The innate capacity to acquire language is lifelong.
8. Learning a second language takes the same amount of time as learning a first language.
9. Native speakers of Korean are better at learning English as a second language than native speakers of Spanish.
10. The only reason that some people cannot learn a second language is that they are insufficiently motivated.
11. Some grammatical structures are learned in a similar sequence by all learners.
12. Developing nativelylike grammatical forms depends on receiving immediate error correction.
13. Learning a second language is very different from learning a first language because of the existence of the first language and because of the second language learner's greater cognitive capacity.
14. Children are born with innate grammatical knowledge, which is also available for learning a second language later in life.
15. Anyone can achieve native level proficiency in a second language at any age.
16. Some people have a special talent for learning foreign languages.
17. Some languages are easier to learn than others.
18. English is
 1. a very difficult language.
 2. a difficult language.
 3. a language of medium difficulty.
 4. an easy language.
 5. a very easy language.
19. Pronunciation is the most difficult part of learning a foreign language.
20. Grammar is the most difficult part of learning a foreign language.

21. Idioms are the most difficult part of learning a foreign language.
22. It is very important to help students eliminate their foreign accent.
23. It is necessary to know English-speaking cultures in order to understand English.
24. You shouldn't say anything in a foreign language until you can say it correctly.
25. It is easier for someone who already speaks a foreign language to learn another one.
26. It is best to learn English in an English-speaking country.
27. If someone spent one hour a day learning a language, how long would it be for them to learn that language very well?
 1. less than a year.
 2. 1-2 years.
 3. 3-5 years.
 4. 5-10 years.
 5. You cannot predict the result from the hours.
28. The best way to learn a foreign language is by memorizing.
29. The best way to learn a foreign language is by overlearning with drills.
30. The best mechanism for learning a second language is imitation.
31. The best mechanism for learning a second language is translation.
32. You can learn a foreign language even when you are worried and anxious.
33. If beginning students are permitted to make errors in English, it will be difficult for them to speak correctly later on.
34. Women are better than men at learning foreign languages.
35. You can learn a foreign language even if you are not motivated.
36. Learning a foreign language is the same as learning other academic subjects.
37. People who are good at mathematics and science are not good at learning foreign languages.
38. When you live in the U.S., you have many opportunities to learn English by communicating with native speakers of English.
39. People who speak more than one language are very intelligent.
40. Teaching grammar to older students is a waste of time.
41. It is unnecessary to practice because English learners in the U.S. practice many hours every day naturally.
42. The most important part of teaching English is social language.
43. Once students can carry on a conversation fluently, they do not need any special language instruction.
44. The most difficult part of reading in English is reading comprehension.
45. Children who learn to read in their native language have more trouble learning to read in English than children who started reading in English in Kindergarten.
46. Students who spend K-12 in U.S. schools and earn good grades develop native-level English language.