

Oral Fixation

I remember the yellow Langenscheidt's Pocket Spanish-English dictionary I was given on my birthday 8 years ago. It was the first language book I ever received. Since then I have become deeply in love with learning languages. Unlike most, I have spent many a weekend contemplating the grammars, vocabularies and scripts of over 30 languages.

Additionally, I see my language books as my connection to the world. Not only do I feel part of a distant culture when I learn a language, I am also taken back to the places where I first purchased each and every book. Colloquial Dutch was purchased from a used bookstore in Shanghai, Spoken Hawaiian was purchased on top of a Hawaiian volcano, Intro to Pashto was purchased along the Dead Sea, and 501 Russian Verbs was purchased in a basement of New York. This collection has, in a very literal sense, immersed me in my reading, and has taught me to love the world for all of its cultural differences.

GENERAL LANGUAGE

1. **The Handbook of Linguistics** – Aronof and Rees-Miller
A concise reference of all linguistic elements. Helps to analyze language scientifically.
2. **Dictionary of Languages: Definitive Reference to more than 400 Languages** – Andrew Dalby
Good for categorizing languages to see how they relate to one another

AFRIKAANS

3. **Colloquial Afrikaans** – Bruce Dolandson
A complete beginner's guide of Afrikaans. The Language represents preserved classical Dutch in the middle of Africa.

ARABIC

4. **Standard Arabic: Elementary/Intermediate Course** – Schultz, Krahl, Reuschel
A textbook of the entire Standard Arabic Language. Does not transliterate, forcing you to learn how to read Arabic script.
5. **Harper's Arabe; Méthode Intégral** – Jack Smart, Francis Altorfer
*A more colloquial Arabic course book. Published in French, so you can learn two languages at once. **Purchased in Montreal.***
6. **Teach Yourself Arabic** - Jack Smart, Francis Altorfer
The English publication of above. Serves to translate the French edition.
7. **Voculaire Thématique Française: Arabe** – Lynne Franjié

Thematic vocabulary lists in French and Arabic. Good for learning two languages at once. Purchased in Montreal.

8. **501 Arabic Verbs** – Barron’s Foreign Language Guides
Fully conjugates 501 most basic Arabic verbs.
9. **201 Arabic Verbs** - Barron’s Foreign Language Guides
Fully conjugates 201 most basic Arabic verbs. Purchased in Quebec City
10. **The Arabic Alphabet** – Nicholas Arrde, Putros Samano
Teaches how to read and write the Arabic Script.
11. **Arabic: An Essential Grammar** – Faruk Abu-Chacra
Concise overview of all aspects of Arabic grammar.
12. **Using Arabic** – Mahdi Alish
Manual of how Arabic is used in different contexts. Describes regionalisms and differences in pronunciation

CATALAN

13. **Colloquial Catalan** – Toni Ibarz, Alexander Ibarz
A beginner’s guide to spoken Catalan. Language shows the diversity and legacy of the Roman Empire.

BASQUE

14. **Beginners Basque** – Wim Jansen
*A beginners guide to the Basque language. Represents one of the most ancient languages still spoken. Unrelated to any other known language.
Purchased in Irvine, California.*

CHINESE

15. **Colloquial Chinese** – Kan Qian
A beginner’s guide to spoken and written Mandarin Chinese. Purchased in Beijing
16. **Getting Around in Chinese** – Marco Liang
A quintessential learners manual for Mandarin Chinese

DUTCH

17. **Beginners Dutch** – Fernand Renier
A condensed beginner’s course to Dutch. Language is strikingly similar to English, making it eye opening for native English speaker.
18. **Colloquial Dutch** – Bruce Donaldson
A beginners guide to spoken Dutch. Purchased in Shanghai.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

19. Egyptian Language – Sir E.A. Wallis Budge

A rough overview of the Ancient Egyptian Language. Teaches how to read Hieroglyphic logographs and syllabary. Purchased in New York City

INUKTIT

20. Eskimo (Inuktitut) Dictionary – Arthur Thibert

A brief catalogue of Inuktitut vocabulary from various locations throughout Alaska and northern Canada. Includes over a dozen words for snow. Purchased in New York City.

ENGLISH

21. 501 English Verbs – Thomas R. Beyer, Jr.

Complete conjugation of 501 most common English words. Surprising to see what verb forms have become obsolete.

FINNISH

22. Colloquial Finnish – Daniel Abondolo

A beginner's guide to spoken Finnish. Despite Finland's proximity to Scandinavia and Europe the language is completely alien to the region.

FRENCH

23. Hide This French Book – APA Publications

Learn all of your dirty French slang from this book

24. 501 French Verbs – Kendris & Kendris

Complete conjugation of 501 most common French verbs.

25. The Ultimate French Review and Practice – David Stillman, Ronni Gordon

A intensive overview of the French Language. Great as a reference grammar.

26. Mastering French Vocabulary – Fischer and Le Ploubinee

An entire book devoted to thematically presenting French vocabulary.

27. Colloquial French – Alan Moys

A beginner's guide to spoken French.

GERMAN

28. **German: How to Speak and Write It** – Joseph Rosenberg
A more traditional text on learning the German Language. Interesting to see how different English and German are despite being of the same family of language.
29. **501 German Verbs** – Henry Strutz
Completely conjugates the 501 most common German Verbs. Interesting to see how English compensates for its loss of verb conjugations.

GREEK

30. **Modern Greek: Cortina Method** – George Pappageotes, Philip D. Emmanuel
A beginner's course in Modern Greek. The Greek alphabet represents the Big-Bang of modern writing and the spread of knowledge.
31. **201 Modern Greek Verbs** – Vasilios Christides
Complete conjugation of 201 most common Modern Greek verbs.
Purchased in Montreal.

HAWAIIAN

32. **Spoken Hawaiian** – Samuel Elbert
A complete course in spoken Hawaiian. The use of particles is perhaps not where better displayed than in the Hawaiian Language. Purchased in Maui

HEBREW

33. **Hebrew: Basic Course** – Joseph A. Reif, Hanna Lemson
A standard Hebrew School Hebrew textbook. A good summary of the basics.
34. **201 Hebrew Verbs** – Abraham Helkin
Complete conjugation of 201 most common Hebrew verbs. Purchased in Jerusalem.
35. **501 Hebrew Verbs** – Shmuel Bulozky
Complete conjugation of 501 most common Hebrew verbs
36. **A Modern Intro to Biblical Hebrew** – John F.A. Sawyer
A beginner's guide to Ancient Hebrew. Interesting to see to what extent the Semitic and Indo-European Languages have mixed.
37. **Hebrew Grammar** – J. Weingreen
A complete manual of Hebrew grammar usage.
38. **Modern Hebrew** – Lewis Glinert
A complete course of the Hebrew Language.

39. **Colloquial Hebrew** – Zippi Wang & Tamar Wang
A beginner's guide to spoken Hebrew. Interesting to see Israeli creativity in forming slang. Purchased in New York City.

HINDI

40. **Colloquial Hindi** – Rama Kant Agnibotri
A beginner's guide to spoken Hindi.
41. **Teach Yourself: Hindi** – Rupert Snell, Simon Weightman
The best Hindi language course book. Teaches the script along with the vocabulary. Purchased in London.

HUNGARIAN

42. **Colloquial Hungarian** – Carol Rounds, Erika Sólyom
A beginner's guide to spoken Hungarian. Interesting to see its similarities to Finnish, and to perhaps make a case for it being related to Turkish and Mongolian. Purchased in New York City.

ICELANDIC

43. **Colloquial Icelandic** – Daisy Neijmann
A beginner's guide to nearly the same language spoken by the Vikings. The complexity of the language makes one wonder how people actually speak it on a daily basis. Purchased in London.

IRISH GAELIC

44. **Learning Irish** – Michael O'Siadhail
A complete course in Irish Gaelic. The orthography of the language is among the most confusing. Purchased in New York City.

ITALIAN

45. **Mastering Italian Vocabulary** – Feinler-Torriani, Klemm
An entire book devoted to thematically presenting Italian vocabulary
46. **Colloquial Italian** – Sylvia Lymbery
A beginner's guide to spoken Italian. Interesting to see how distant the language is from Latin, despite its relative proximity to Rome. Purchased in Rome.
47. **501 Italian Verbs** – John Colaneri, Vincent Luciani
Complete Conjugation of 501 most common Italian verbs. One can best see through the verbs the influence Spanish rule had on the Italian language.

JAPANESE

48. **An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese** – The Japan Times
A complete introductory textbook to the Japanese language.
49. **Japanese For College Students** – International Christian University
A complete introductory textbook geared towards second register Japanese.
50. **A Guide to Reading and Writing Japanese** – Sakade Henshall, Seeley de Groot
*A complete reference manual to Chinese characters used in Japanese.
Amazing to see how Chinese script has been adapted to fit the Japanese language.*
51. **Kenji: Picto-O-Graphix** – Michael Rowley
Relates Chinese/Japanese characters to common symbols of the same meaning to aid in memorization.
52. **Colloquial Japanese** – H.D.B. Clarke, Motoko Hamamura
A beginner's guide to spoken and written Japanese. Purchased in London.
53. **501 Japanese Verbs** – Roland Lange
Complete conjugation of 501 most common Japanese verbs. Interesting how verbs are conjugated according to due respect rather than time or person.
54. **Japanese Verbs and Essential Grammar** – McGraw Hill
A brief manual of Japanese grammar usage.

KOREAN

55. **Colloquial Korean** – In-Seok Kim
A beginner's guide to spoken Korean. Perhaps the most modern of all East Asian scripts.

LATIN

56. **Wheelock's Latin** – Frederic M. Wheelock
The quintessential course book for Latin learners. The Latin language represents the heart of the Romance Language diaspora.
57. **501 Latin Verbs** – Richmond Prior, Joseph Wohlberg
Completely conjugates 501 most common Latin verbs.

MALAY

58. **Malay for Everyone** – Othman Sulaiman
A basic course in the Malay language. Interesting to see how heavily the language has been influenced by its English, Portuguese, and Dutch colonizers. Purchased in Irvine, California.

MONGOLIAN

59. **Modern Mongolian** – John Grant, L. Bayarmandatch
A complete course in the Mongolian Language. The Altaic branch of languages extends from Turkey to the Manchuria, yet these languages of the steppe people's goes all but unnoticed. Purchased in Xi'an, China.

PERSIAN

60. **Colloquial Persian** – Abdi Rabee
A beginner's guide to spoken Farsi. Although located in the heart of the Muslim world, and despite being written in Arabic script, this language is nonetheless Indo-European. Purchased in Miami.

PORTUGUESE

61. **Português Básico Para Estrangeiros** – Rejane De Olieria Slade
A complete course of Portuguese. Interesting to see how Portuguese differs from Spanish.
62. **Ultimate Portuguese** – Lourdes Filoro
A beginner's guide to Brazilian Portuguese.
63. **Colloquial Portuguese** – João Sampaio, Barbara McIntyre
A beginner's course in the Portuguese of Portugal. Interesting to what extent Portuguese varies between Brazil and Portugal.
64. **Colloquial Portuguese of Brazil** – Esmenia Simoes Osborne, João Sampaio, Barbara McIntyre
A beginner's course in Brazilian Portuguese. The Phonetics of Brazilian Portuguese are unlike any other Romance language.
65. **Using Portuguese** – Ganho & McGovern
A practical guide to spoken Portuguese. Presents vocabulary in terms of linguistic register.
66. **501 Portuguese Verbs** – Nitti & Ferreira
Complete conjugation of 501 most common Portuguese verbs.

PASHTO

67. **Intro to Pashto** – Qazi Rahimullah Khan
A beginner's guide to Pashto. Amazing to see how the Arabic script was adopted all over the world. Purchased in Ein Gedi, Israel.

ROMANIAN

68. **Colloquial Romanian** – Romona Gonczol Davies, Dennis Deletant

A beginner's guide to spoken Romania. The most interesting of the Romance languages due to its mixing with the Balto-Slavic Languages and its semi-retention of Latin declension. Purchased in New York City.

RUSSIAN

69. **501 Russian Verbs** –Thomas R. Beyer, Jr.
Complete conjugation of 501 most common Russian verbs.
70. **Russian Course** – Nicholas Brown
A complete course in Russian. Interesting to see how the Cyrillic alphabet is so similar to the Greek.
71. **Russian Stories: A Dual Language Book** – Ed. Gleb Strove
The best way to learn another language is to read in it. This book makes translation easy. Purchased in Brooklyn, New York.

SANSKRIT

72. **Teach Yourself: Sanskrit** – Michael Coulson, Richard Gombrich, James Benson
A complete guide to the Sanskrit language. Amazing to see how similar the language is to Latin and Greek. The script is one of the most beautiful in the world. Purchased in New York City.

SPANISH

73. **2001 Spanish and English Idioms** – Savaiano, Winget
2001 of the most common phrases and expressions translated in to both English and Spanish.
74. **Mastering Spanish Vocabulary** – Navarro, Navarro, Ramil
An entire book devoted to thematically presenting Spanish vocabulary. Purchased in Panama City, Panama.
75. **The Red-Hot Book of Spanish Slang and Idioms** – Gill Wegman
The best guide for Spanish slang. The book presents each word or phrase by region of usage.
76. **Using Spanish** – Batchelor, Pantain
A practical guide to spoken Spanish. Presents vocabulary in terms of linguistic register. Purchased in San Jose, Costa Rica.
77. **The Ultimate Spanish Review and Practice** – Ronni Gordon, David Stillman
A intensive overview of the Spanish Language. Great as a reference grammar.
78. **Spanish Vocabulary: An Etymological Approach** – David Brodsky

Presents Spanish vocabulary in its relation to the Latin root. Amazing to see how innovative language can become over centuries. Purchased in Panama City, Panama.

79. **501 Spanish Verbs** – Kendris and Kendris
Complete conjugation of 501 most common Spanish verbs.

SWAHILI

80. **Colloquial Swahili** – Donovan McGrath, Lutz Marten
A beginner's guide to spoken Swahili. Interesting to learn an African language. Purchased in Tel Aviv, Israel.

SWEDISH

81. **201 Swedish Verbs** – Richard P. Auleth
Complete conjugation of 201 most common Swedish verbs.
82. **Colloquial Swedish** – Jenine Ahlgren, Philip Holmes, Gunilla Serin
A beginner's guide to spoken Swedish. Swedish phonetics represent one of the most complex systems in the world. Purchased in New York City.

TAMIL

83. **Colloquial Tamil** – R.E. Asher, E. Annamalai
A beginner's guide to spoken Tamil. Interesting to learn an Indian language unrelated to the Indo-European family. Fun to speculate the Dravidian relationship to Japanese and Korean.

THAI

84. **Colloquial Thai** – John Moore, Saowalak Rodchue
A beginner's guide to spoken Thai. Interesting alphabet and phonetics.

TURKISH

85. **Colloquial Turkish** – Jeroen Aarsen, Ad Bachus
A beginner's guide to spoken Turkish. Language represents one of the best examples of vowel harmony.

URDU

86. **Colloquial Urdu** – Tej K. Bhatia, Ashok Khul
A beginner's guide to spoken Urdu. Nearly identical to Hindi yet written with Arabic script.

VIETNAMESE

87. **Spoken Vietnamese** – Robert P. Jones, Jr., Huyn Sanh Thong
A basic guide to spoken Vietnamese.

Dictionaries

1. **Chinese Concise Dictionary** – Harper Collins
2. **Swedish Standard Dictionary** – Petti and Petti
3. **Cambodian Dictionary** – Sos, Kheang, Ehrman
4. **Modern Yiddish Dictionary** – Weinreich
5. **Langenscheidt's Grand Dictionary: Turkish**
6. **Essential Kanji** – O'Neil
7. **Swahili Dictionary and Phrasebook** – Awdi
8. **Modern Aramaic Dictionary and Phrasebook** – Nicholas Awde, Nineb Lamasu, Nicholas Al-Jeloo
9. **Arabic Dictionary and Phrasebook** – Gaafer and Wightwick
10. **Ben Yahuda's Hebrew Dictionary**
11. **Romanian Dictionary** – Harper Collins
12. **Oxford Russian Dictionary**
13. **Langenscheidt's German Dictionary**
14. **Oxford Greek Dictionary**
15. **Oxford Intermediate Learner's Chinese Dictionary**
16. **Random House: Webster's Italian Dictionary**
17. **Random House: Webster's Japanese Dictionary**
18. **Manuel de Conversation: L'Hebreu pour Francophones** – Prolog publishing House Ltd.
19. **Espanol-Ingles, Larouse Dictionary**
20. **Langenscheidt's Pocket Dictionary: Latin**
21. **Langenscheidt's Pocket Dictionary: Spanish**
22. **Langenscheidt's Pocket Dictionary: French**
23. **Finnish Dictionary** – Woolle
24. **Estonian Dictionary** – Kyw, Benyuch
25. **Scottish Gaelic Dictionary** – Renton, McDonald
26. **Sanskrit Dictionary** – Apte
27. **Oxford Pocket Portuguese Dictionary**
28. **American Heritage Spanish Dictionary**