

# How you can learn to communicate in another language

Developed by Howard Culbertson, Southern Nazarene University

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## The Language Learning Alphabet

# God's gift

n “And God said . . .” (Genesis 1:3)

# Jesus

- n Incarnational ministry model
- n He spoke the language.
  - u Some Aramaic phrases so powerful that gospel writers quoted Jesus in that language and then gave translations.



# *Barrier*

# The way to their *Heart*



# Filtering

- n Linguists say that languages condition or channel our thinking
- n If people of another mother tongue have to speak to you in English, they are limited in what they can express.

# Adults Children

- n How do adults learn a language?
- n How do children learn a language?
- n Which analogy is best?
  - u The preciseness of math?
  - u The expressiveness of art?

# Another “c” word

## Charitable

“Though I speak with the  
tongues of men and of angels,  
and have not charity . . .”

(I Corinthians 13:1, KJV)





# *Dedication*



Another “d” word

*Discouraged*

Progress between plateaus

# Everyone

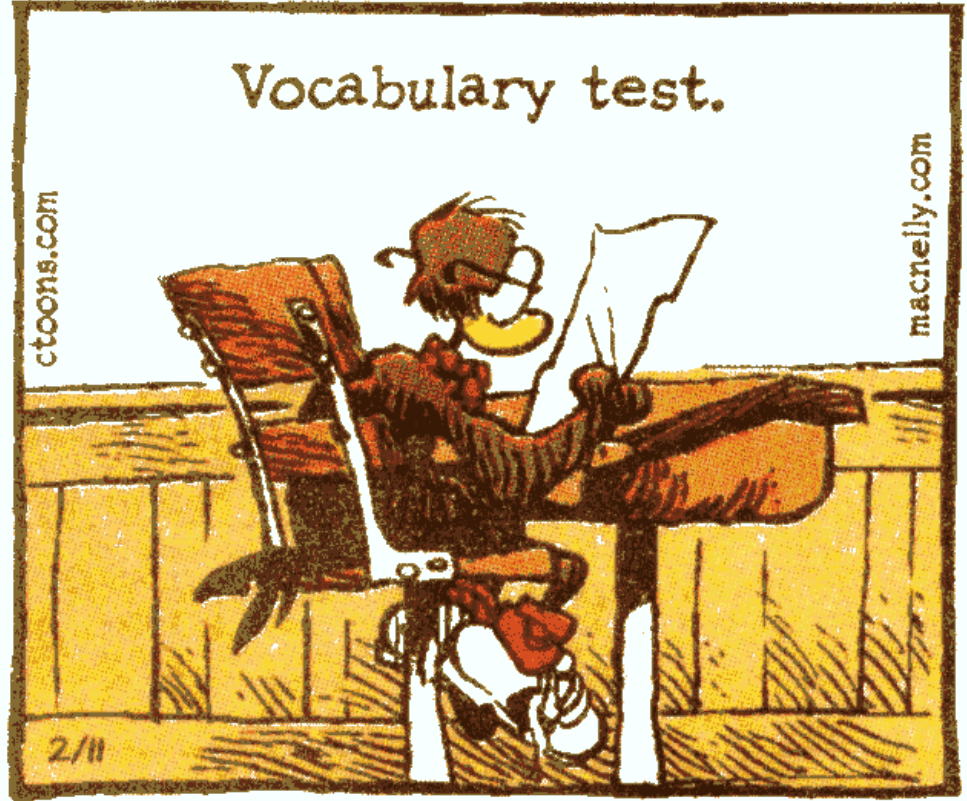
- n Do you say “I can’t learn a language” based on attempts in high school or college?
- n Lots of people in the world are bi-lingual; many of those are illiterate!

One more “e” word

# Etymology

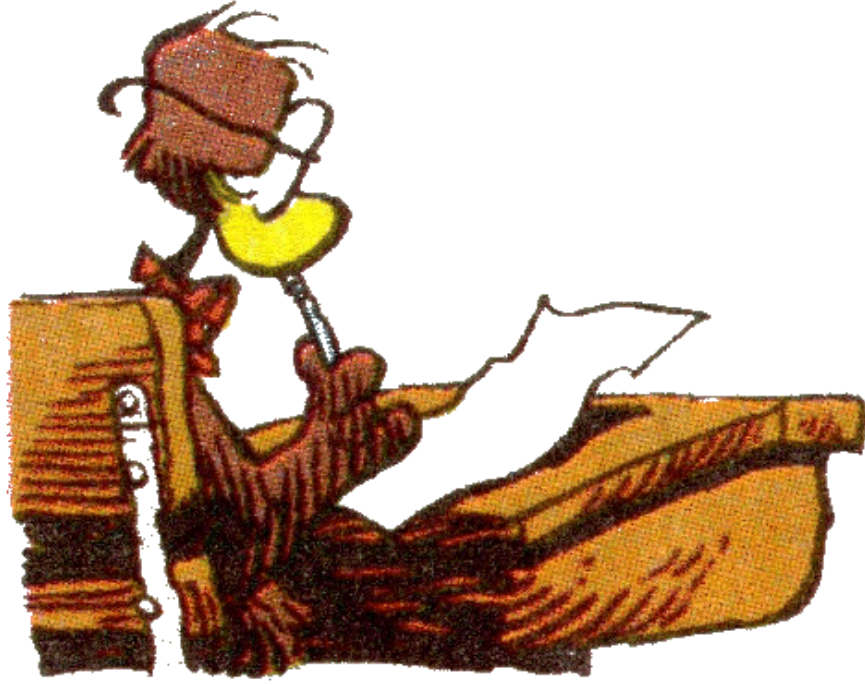
- n Using word origins to get at meanings can be both helpful and disastrous.
- n For example:
  - u “molestar”
  - u “embarasada”

**S  
H  
O  
E**

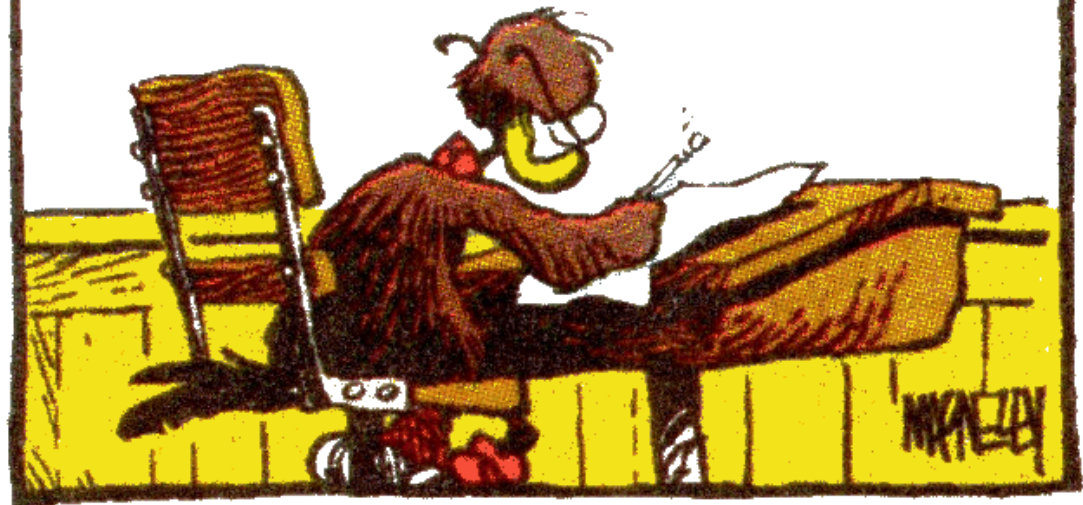


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Define  
"tableau"



A French team for  
the spray from opening  
a soda can.





Another “g” word

# Gestures

Be prepared to use a lot of them!



# / mmersion

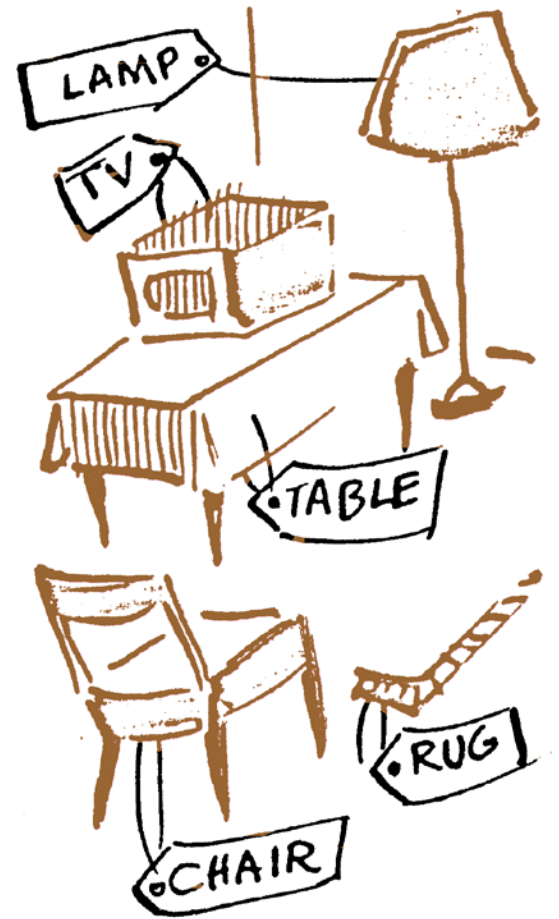
- n Total immersion: being thrown into the swimming pool!
- n Don't try to have the language explained to you in English.

# Kindergarten

- n You're going back to being a kindergartner
- n Another "h" word: Humility

# Label everything

Put written labels  
on everything . . .  
even the dog.



# Million Mistakes

- n Fearful of making mistakes and looking stupid?
- n You've got a million mistakes to make. So, get started.



*Another “m” word*

*Memorize Scripture*



# Native Speaker

Learn from native speakers,  
preferably those who do not  
speak English!

# Obligatory

- n Language learning is not a “necessary evil” to get out of the way.
- n Don't give it low priority because you're only going to be there a short time.
- n Build relationships with your language helpers. Maybe the Holy Spirit has brought them to you on purpose!

# Proverbs and Prayers

- n Learn a couple of proverbs and use them often!

Memorize three short prayers:

- n Table grace
- n Offering prayer
- n A “general” prayer for a church service



# Questions

n Ask lots of 'em!

n Learn to ask “What is this?”  
in your target language.



Hit this button a zillion times.

n Keep your mind turned “on.”

# Repetition

- n Learn a bit; use it a bunch.
- n Learn a little; use it a lot.

By the end of the second day off the plane, you should be saying:

n “Good morning”

n “Good evening”

n “How are you?”

n “I am fine, thank you”

# Studying

- n “Studying” a language does not equal “learning” it.
- n “Studying” the language can become an excuse for not using what you do know.

# Translation

- n No exact word for word equivalence exists
- n Use translation as little as possible!
- n Listen to church services in the language without an interpreter (*interrupter*) talking in your ear.

# Use it

- n Use it all
- n Use it all every day
- n Use it all with every person



a. **Voracious**

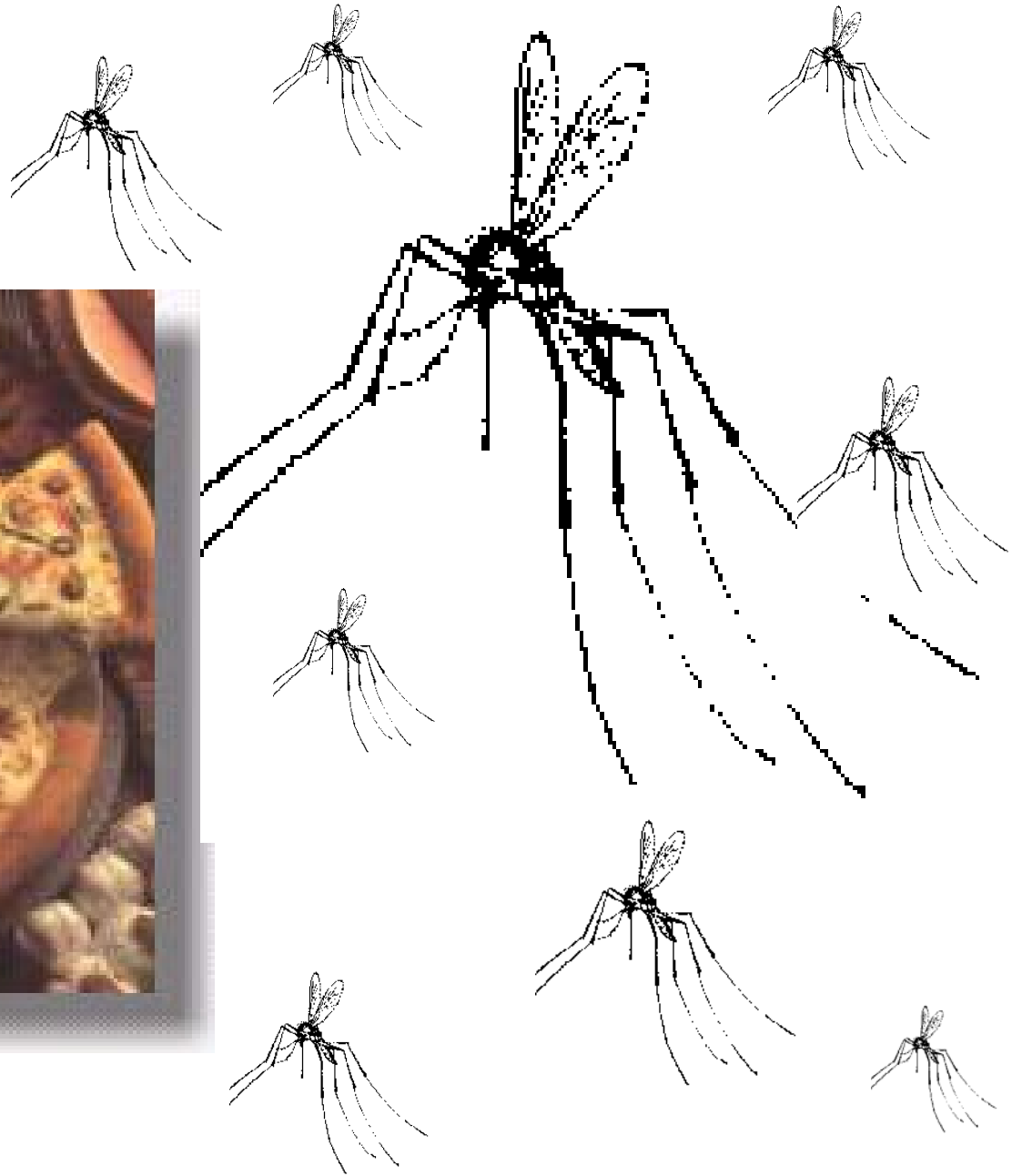
b. **Vulnerable**

n Develop a voracious appetite for words and phrases

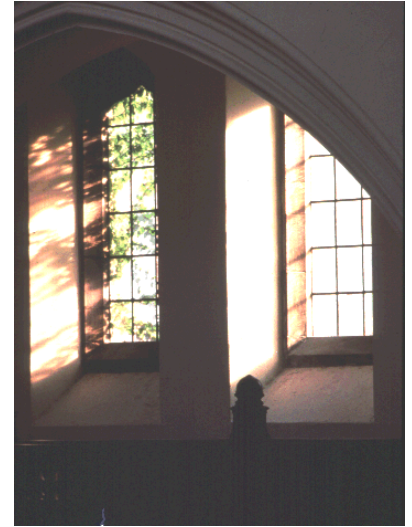
n Be willing to laugh at yourself . . . a lot







# Window



- n Language is a window into their soul.
- n Learn to speak a little bit; they may open the door and invite you all the way in.



# Xtra patience

# *You are the key*



# Zest



- n Put **zest** into your language learning or you may wind up with **zilch**.
- n Another “e” word: euphoria

**“There before me was a  
great multitude that no  
one could count, from  
every . . . language,  
standing before the  
throne and in front of  
the Lamb”**

**-- Revelation 7:9**

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This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm>

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