

Lin Mel's Study tips for Spanish:

-When memorizing vocabulary, think in pictures! Have you noticed how kids pick up language so fast? One reason is because they are a blank slate and directly relate words to pictures and feelings.

-From what I gather, you gals want to be able to communicate in Spanish. So it's logical that you need to hear and speak the language. When studying, read vocab words and try to use them in sentences, and above all else, practice and say them aloud to yourself. Having a Spanish friend to talk to (or try to)

-I've found that the best way to learn a language is to be immersed in it. Since this isn't possible here, we'll try something else. If you have cable, watch a bit of Univision or another Spanish speaking channel and try to pick out words. You may not understand most of what is going on, but it is a start to understanding.

-In the field, you will hear many different types of Spanish. It is spoken world wide and there are many different accents and styles. So, why sit at the same table each time hearing the same type of Spanish from your partners? Move around! Each day, sit at a different table, and try to use as much Spanish to communicate as possible. People have their own personal style when it comes to talking.

-In terms of how you study, you need to find what works for you. For example, if flashcards work for you, use them. Remember, quality over quantity. I always laugh when I see study groups of over 8 or 9 people, and they always get off course, and end up getting nothing done. You are working women, and many of you have families as well, so your study time is valuable. Find what works best and use it ☺.

Just remember, English is so ingrained into us, it is the language we think in. When learning Spanish it is best to keep an open mind. There will be times when structure, grammar, ect will be odd and won't make any sense to you. **JUST ACCEPT IT AS THE WAY IT IS! Remember, those who think in Spanish are thinking the exact same thing when learning our language. Personally, when first learning a romance language, the idea of words being either masculine or feminine made no sense to me, when I got to a point where I just accepted it as the way it is and let go of my English mind thought, I was able to learn and understand much more easily!