

# Transforming Language Education with Generative AI and AI Avatars

Mike Walsh and Tony Mancus (FSI/EX/DLD)



# Using Generative AI to Facilitate Self-Study

- Self-study is crucial for language learning.
- Even at FSI, which offers full-time language training, much student learning takes place outside of the classroom.
  - And once students complete their training and move on to post, they will shift almost entirely to self-study.
- Today's focus: generative AI prompt techniques that students can use/adapt to facilitate sustained self-study, whether during their language training or while at post.

# The Techniques

- I myself am not a language instructor, but a hobbyist language learner.
- I actively use all the techniques I'm showing today.
- All are customized to how I like to study, but are easily adaptable to other workflows.
- With the exception of ChatGPT Voice, these techniques work equally well on ChatGPT, StateChat, and Gemini.
- They are as follows:
  - Sentence flashcard generation
  - Specialized dialogue generation
  - Interlinear texts for reading
  - ChatGPT voice mode

# Sentence Flashcards

- Customized to my personal workflow (I prefer simple sentence cards), but easily adaptable.
- Works best in combination with an SRS program (I use Anki).
- Once the desired output is achieved, the process is automated: all you need is a single word or phrase to generate new outputs.
- Works very well on ChatGPT mobile. Students can quickly generate flashcard material while on the go.

# Sentence Flashcards (Prompt)

I would like to create sentence flashcards to learn French vocabulary. When I give you a word or phrase in French, please output the following:

- A definition/explanation of the French word or phrase.
- Five sample sentences using that word or phrase, along with an English translation of each sentence. Make the French sentences bold.

Please use the following as a model for the output I'm looking for:

The French word "voyou" translates to "delinquent" or "thug" in English. It refers to a person who engages in criminal or anti-social behavior. This term often carries a negative connotation and implies a lack of respect for laws and social norms.

Definition and Example Sentences:

Les voleurs étaient des voyous notoires qui semaient la terreur dans le quartier.

The thieves were notorious delinquents who spread fear in the neighborhood.

Le policier a tenté de maîtriser le voyou qui causait des problèmes dans le parc.

The officer tried to control the thug who was causing trouble in the park.

Ce film raconte l'histoire d'un jeune voyou qui tente de changer de vie.

This movie tells the story of a young delinquent trying to change his life.

Les habitants du quartier étaient inquiets à cause des voyous qui traînaient près de l'école.

The neighborhood residents were worried because of the thugs hanging around near the school.

Il a été arrêté pour avoir agi comme un voyou lors de la manifestation.

He was arrested for behaving like a thug during the protest.

Let's start with the word "éclatant"

# Specialized Dialogue Generation

- Used to generate dialogues that make concentrated use of a particular register / tone / lexical set.
- I mostly use this to learn slang.
- Can also be used to generate dialogues that:
  - Make use of seasonal/holiday vocabulary
  - Make use of technical vocabulary (medical terms, terms for car parts, etc.)
  - Specific daily life situations (going to the dentist, talking with a landscaper, etc.)
    - Especially useful for FSOs and their families at post
- Very easy to combine with the sentence flashcards technique.

# Specialized Dialogue Generation (Prompt)

Generate an informal French conversation in which both speakers use lots of contemporary slang. Provide English translations under each line of dialogue.

# Interlinear Texts for Reading

- [What is an interlinear text?](#)
- Useful for students who want to do extensive reading at a level slightly above what they can read comfortably or in a context they aren't very familiar with yet.
- Also very easy to combine with the sentence flashcards technique.



# Interlinear Texts for Reading (Prompt)

When I give you a text in Korean, please output a sentence-by-sentence translation of that text. Each Korean sentence should be bold and should use H2 style (##); the English translation should be plain, and should fall directly under the Korean sentence. The English sentence should be as literal as possible with respect to the Korean.

Let's try it with this text:

[Insert text]

# ChatGPT Voice

- As demonstrated here: [How ChatGPT Voice Changed Language Learning Forever](#)
- This has enormous potential. Some current limitations:
  - Currently limited to ChatGPT + (paid version)
  - Limited to 40 queries per 3-hour period.
  - Is currently a bit unreliable when mixing languages.
    - But these limitations largely vanish when you leave voice mode.
- This is worth playing with and keeping an eye on.
  - We should assume that this will improve quickly over time.
  - We should assume that language apps (Duolingo, Babel, etc.) and other LLMs are also developing this capability.

# ChatGPT Voice (Prompt 1)

Pretend that you are my French tutor, and we're going to practice the difference between sentences that use *il y a longtemps*, *depuis*, and *pendant*. So, you are going to give me a sentence in English, and I'm going to translate it into French using one of those terms. If I get the answer correct, tell me I'm correct. If I get the answer wrong, explain why, and then move on to the next sentence.

# ChatGPT Voice (Prompt 2)

Pretend that you are my Korean tutor. I'd like to practice using specific scenarios that would take place in everyday life. For each role-play, tell me the overall situation, who you are, and where we are. Then deliver the first line in Korean. After that, give me three options for possible responses. One of them should be the correct response. The other two should be less than optimal in some way (too formal, too familiar, potentially rude, etc.). I will choose my response by repeating the Korean back to you. If I am correct, say so; if I'm wrong, explain why, then give me another chance to guess the correct answer. Each scenario will go on for five rounds; after that, give me the option to prompt you to either start a new scenario or to repeat the current one.



# Daily Interactions in Romanian

SLS/ROM - Find the Impostor



# Overview

What is it?

- Realistic and immersive activity
- Relying on student experiences and authentic speech

Created using a combination of tools

- ThingLink + Google Street View + Google Forms + ChatGPT/Dall-E + HeyGen

Why these tools?

- Realism, flexibility, and time savings

# Questions?