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Angela - Open Access Spanish

Angela discusses why she chose Spanish and how she has progressed through the different levels of the Open Access Spanish course.

Title **Angela - Open Access language student at Languages for All (/facilities/cml/videos/index.aspx)**
Duration 3:02 mins

At the moment I'm doing a Level 8 course which is mainly aimed at people who have perhaps got a degree in Spanish, or have lived in the country for a while, but I started at Level 2, almost the beginning, and worked my way up, so the level of the course gradually increases as you go through them.

I'd tried to find a language course to carry on with my Spanish years ago but I'd given up and then suddenly one day somebody mentioned Open Access which I'd never heard of, and I'd lived on the doorstep of the University for years so it was a complete revelation, and I came along and found out you didn't have to be a graduate of the University or anything and I started with great trepidation, and was just immediately hooked. It was great, and I've been coming ever since.

My whole way of looking at the University has changed. It was always a sort of rather interesting looking place on my doorstep, but now I'm quite happy to take shortcuts through the campus and find my way around, and feel part of it really.

The teaching was inspirational. The tutors are all native speakers* and they just teach so well. Classes are good fun, there's a good cross-section of people in them and we have a good time. I've been doing Open Access courses from Level 2 and I'm now doing Level 8 so I've done seven years of courses, eight in fact because I'm doing Level 8 for the second time. I've gradually built up the Spanish, it's inspired me to do more studying of the language outside of this as well so it's given me a huge amount of confidence in speaking the language.

I suppose by the time people have reached the Level 8 class they're fairly comfortable with speaking, not necessarily fluently well, but fairly comfortable with it, so we tend to concentrate on discussion, on perhaps seeing bits of films or television documentaries, news items or something, and looking at them, talking about them afterwards, and learning any grammar that we need to cover within the context of that. We also subscribe to a magazine, which is a tabloid compilation of newspaper articles taken from various newspapers and we read an article at home and then discuss it for the first half hour of the class afterwards. It's all really interesting.

I think the other thing about Level 8 is that what people really need more than anything by then is the chance to speak. It's quite difficult to get the opportunity to speak a language if you haven't got some outlet for doing it and people come because perhaps they want to keep their Spanish speaking going.

I think you can take up a language at any age, you just need to want to be able to speak. The main thing about learning a language is enjoying communicating, so if you want to communicate in another language then don't stop, do it, it's never to late to start

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