

Library Lagniappe by Jan Steele, Director  
Lago Vista Public Library



If you're planning a trip to a foreign country this year, if you would like to see how much you can remember from your high school French class, or if you just want to improve your mind by learning a new language, take a look at Mango Languages, an online language program found on the Lago Vista Public Library website.

Mango's menu of 71 languages includes some of the more commonly requested languages like French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish (Latin America) or Spanish (Spain). You will also find such languages as Arabic, Farsi, Finnish, Greek, Portuguese, Hebrew, Norwegian, Thai, Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin), Tagalog, Hawaiian, Cherokee, and, believe it or not, Pirate! For users whose native language is not English, Mango provides lessons from which you can learn English as a second language (ESL).

Mango makes it possible to learn a foreign language from the comfort of your own home. The program can be used online from any computer with speakers, without bothering with CDs, DVDs, downloads, or installations. To access Mango Languages, you need an up-to-date library account. Login to your account on the library website, click on Mango Languages, choose a language, and follow the instructions.

The program begins with useful conversations, printed on scenic backgrounds in both the native and chosen languages, and narrated by native speakers. Color coded words are used to match translations. The voice comparison tool allows you to use a microphone to compare your speech with audio from the narrator. Tips and phonetic spelling are available to help you understand; questions and quizzes are offered to help you remember what you learned. The program offers grammar tips, extra vocabulary, a translator, navigating tools and a placement test to check your level of knowledge of the language. Mango's mobile app allows accessibility to language learning anywhere, anytime.

An up-to-date library card is all you need for remote access to Mango Languages as well as other library databases, including downloadable media (e-books) from Overdrive. Library membership is free and easy to obtain. Visit the library, and bring a current government-issued photo ID and proof of residency, such as a current driver's license, lease agreement or utility bill.

For anyone wishing to learn Spanish in a face-to-face classroom, the library offers a Conversational Spanish class every Wednesday at 2 p.m., led by José Alcorta. In April, Shirley Karn, who now teaches an Advanced Spanish Class, will offer a new Spanish Class for Beginners every Thursday at 2 p.m. A French Class for Beginners is being considered if there is enough interest in the community. If you are interested in attending Spanish or French classes, please contact us at [lvlibrary@austin.rr.com](mailto:lvlibrary@austin.rr.com) or call 512-267-3868. For more information about Mango Languages or other library programs and services, visit our website, [www.lagovista.lib.tx.us](http://www.lagovista.lib.tx.us).