

Learning in your second language

Land acknowledgment

McGill is located on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, known as Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. The Kanien'kehá:ka are one of the nations that make up the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on Turtle Island/North America. Our goal is to promote learning and generate allyship with local Indigenous communities, by honouring and respecting the many nations removed from, as well as those still connected to this land. Throughout the workshop we encourage you to reflect on how colonial languages structure various economic, social, and political structures in Canada. If the land acknowledgment is new to you, we encourage you to learn more through resources like [Native Land](#), McGill Indigenous Initiatives' [The Land and People and Indigenous Education Resources](#)

Session description and outcomes

This one-hour workshop will introduce you to some strategies for gaining confidence in English speaking environments. The facilitators will also outline tips you can employ to develop a higher understanding of the content in your courses.

By the end of this session, you will have had a chance to:

- x Identify personal challenges with learning in a second language
- x Demonstrate strategies that will be most helpful for your learning
- x Develop networks for peer support

Working definitions

Social and effective strategies encompass interaction with yourself and/or other person/people to enhance and assist learning for example asking yourself or others questions, peer tutoring

Cognitive strategies help you as a learner to engage and work with subject materials yourself, which empowers you with the skills to complete tasks and understand material for example elaborating on a topic or taking effective notes

Activities

This workshop will involve small group discussions, networking opportunities, an online word cloud exercise, and some reflection prompts in the chat.

Before attending the session, consider reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of your current learning strategies in English speaking environments.

Your next step

Following the session, reflect on the following questions

- x What strategies will you implement to ease your challenges with learning in an English speaking environment?
- x How will you know if the strategy is working for you?
- x Where will you look for a community of support at McGill?

Space for your notes

Resources

The [McGill Buddy Program](#) can help you transition to life at McGill and in Montreal.