# Learning journals – a guide for students

Student learning journals provide a place for you to plan, set goals and write reflections, helping you to develop your language skills. They provide a means to give yourself feedback, and share your learning journey with your teacher.

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reflect | Journal | Plan | Discuss |
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## Guiding questions

There are 3 questions to consider in your learning journal.

**What have I learned this week?** For example, I learnt:

* the characters \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_
* how to create a sentence in past form
* how to give an opinion using the joining word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (but)

**What do I need to do for next week?** For example, I need to:

* go to Quizlet word list and play for 10 minutes
* write a paragraph in [language] about what I did on the weekend
* learn the characters \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_
* find a children’s story online to watch in [language]

**What do I need help with?** For example, I need to:

* ask my teacher about a way to practise characters to remember them
* find out how to make a sentence with adverbs, for example \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (very), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a bit)
* find out how to break down what I want to say into [language] I have learnt and not go to Google Translate.

You may also want to include information on **how** you can use your new learning.

## Including details

To make your learning journal effective, include details in your responses.

Examples of details may be:

* identifying specific language that you need help with, for example how to make sentences more complex, how to express an opinion or the stroke order of characters
* techniques for general language learning, for example tips for memorising vocabulary or ways you could develop listening skills
* a mind map of ideas and/or language you’d like to use
* a plan of attack, which identifies what you need help with (with specific details) and how you are going to attack the task/challenge.

Take a look at the examples below.

### What have I learned this week?

Connect new learning to existing learning and to real-life situations.

For example:

*I have learned shopping structures which I can use in my assessment dialogue and when shopping online or in person with Chinese-speaking communities.*

### What do I need to do for next week?

How will you do it? What is your action plan for achieving it?

(**Bold parts are the basic idea**, following these are how to be more explicit when writing your reflections.)

For example:

***I need to review my shopping sentences*** *by writing 2 sentences for 3 nights this week, including a sentence starter, an adverb and a conjunction.*

***I need to start writing my assignment*** *by creating a mind map of what I plan to include, with language structures and vocabulary ideas. I will do this on Monday night and write the first part on Thursday night.*

### What do I need help with?

Identify what it is and your plan of action to get help.

(**Bold parts are the basic idea**, following these are how to be more explicit when writing your reflections.)

For example:

***Character stroke order*** *by using a website that animates stroke order such as* [*https://www.chineseconverter.com/en/convert/chinese-stroke-order-tool*](https://www.chineseconverter.com/en/convert/chinese-stroke-order-tool)*. Ask my teacher if she has any recommendations.*

***Starting my assignment*** *by deciding what to include in my task and a planning tool to make sure I cover required content. I’ll read over the task and marking guidelines, highlighting the essential parts to include in the plan. Then I’ll check with my teacher to make sure I’m on the right track.*

## Like to know more?

Visit our [online sample self-reflection guide for students](https://spark.adobe.com/page/uo3V2GkvM9bGJ/) for more information.