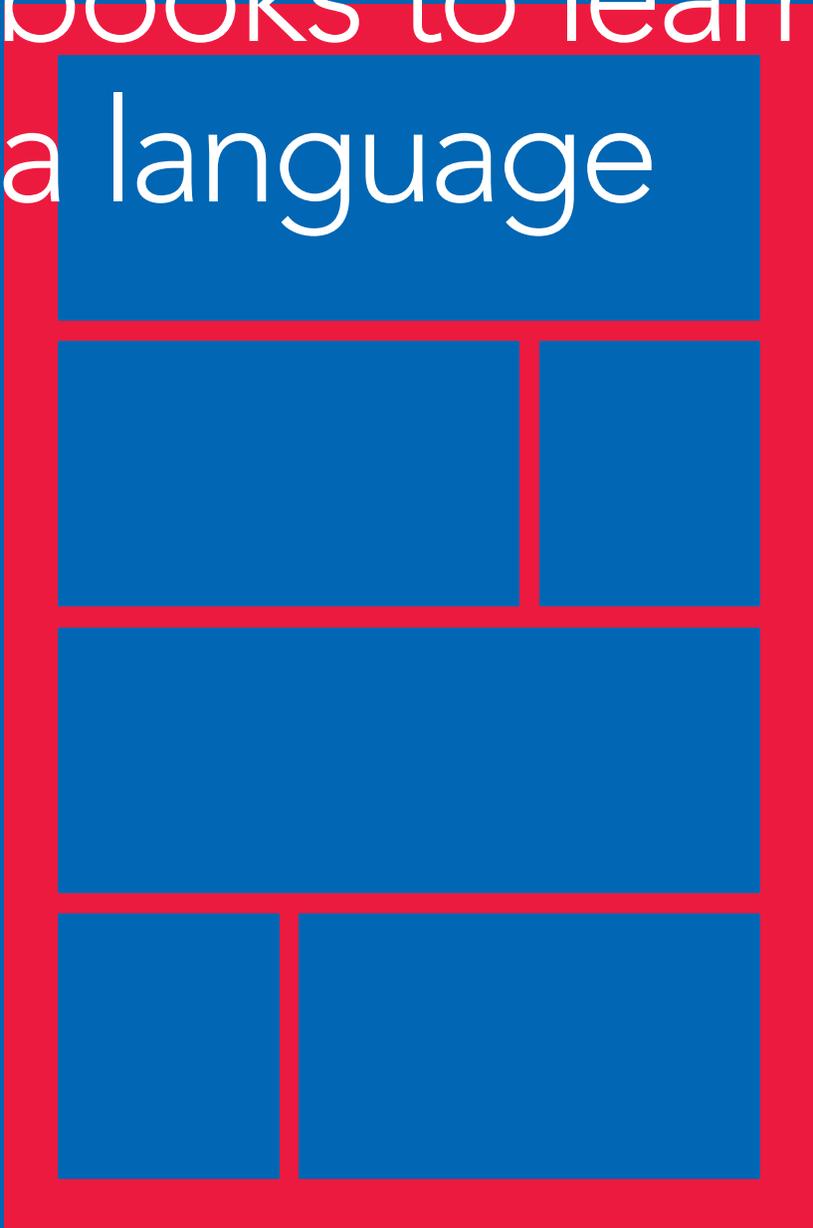


Using comic books to learn a language



To get started, it may be useful to choose a **comic you already know**.

At first concentrate on the **images and pictures**: what are your first impressions? What assumptions can you make on the content of the comic?

Read the comic once, without worrying about understanding everything. **Let yourself be transported** by the story and the images: they can help you get a general idea of the story.

Now try to **capture your first impressions** about the comic and what struck you most: the graphics, the characters, the story. Try to find keywords and then write them down.

Try covering up some of the cartoons and describe what happens **between one scene and the next**: this is a good exercise in oral expression!

Look carefully at the characters: each has a different personality, a different way of expressing themselves and unique gestures and expressions. In your own words, **try to describe the characters** (physical appearance, personality, role in the story) using adjectives, synonyms and opposites.

Now work on the **dialogues** between the characters: try to deduce the meaning of the words you don't know from the context, check them in a dictionary and make a note of new terms or words in a notebook, adding phrases and examples so you can remember them easily.

The language used in comics is that of everyday speech, made up of exclamations, broken sentences, onomatopoeia and so on. Its main characteristic is the use of **direct speech**. Try to transform the comic into a story by using **indirect speech** instead.

Try to attribute an **adjective** to the moods expressed by the characters in the comic by means of interjections such as 'ahh', 'grr', 'oh dear'...

Multimedia Language Centre
Piazza della Rena 10
39012 Merano
+39 0473 252264
mediatecamerano@provincia.bz.it
www.provincia.bz.it/multimedialanguagecentre

Multilingual Centre
Centro Trevi – TreviLab
Via Cappuccini 28
39100 Bolzano
+39 0471 300789
centromultilingue@provincia.bz.it
www.provincia.bz.it/multilingualcentre