



Learning language online



March 07, 2009 by [Tj Banes](#) | Star staff

In six weeks, Sara Hook learned the basics of a new language without setting foot in a classroom.

"I'm interested in international cultures, and I saw how large our Hispanic population was growing," said Hook, 52, an associate dean at IUPUI. And for her, the convenience of an online Spanish course was just the answer.

"I didn't want a traditional class where I focused on grammar and conjugating verbs," said Hook, who borrowed conversational tapes from the public library and listened to Spanish television programs to become familiar with the language.

Hook's course was offered through Lawrence Township's Continuing Education program.

Kim Olive, director of the Lawrence Community Education Program, has seen enrollment in Spanish classes by banking and health-care professionals increase.

"We offer about 15 different workplace Spanish classes, either in the classroom or online, where students can work at their own pace."

Similar classes are offered by the Indy Foreign Language Academy. The BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages>) also offers 12-week courses that include learning games to help students better understand the various cultures.

According to research by RosettaStone, a technology-based program, foreign languages open doors professionally, sharpen your mind and broaden your awareness of the world.

"A lot of people learn a language to help them advance in their current position — and it is true, a person with two languages is like having two employees," said Jenna Porter, director of Indy Foreign Language Academy, with classrooms in Downtown Indianapolis and Carmel.

In the Indianapolis area, adults can choose a variety of classes, from conversational Arabic to beginning French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, German, Chinese or Russian.

For more information on local foreign language programs, visit Indy Foreign Language Academy at www.indyfla.com; Lawrence Township Community Education at [https:// comm.ed.itschools .org](https://comm.ed.itschools.org), or RosettaStone at [www.rosettastone .com](http://www.rosettastone.com).

Category: [Living](#)

Tags:

[community education program](#), [sara hook](#), [bbc co uk languages](#), [conjugating verbs](#), [health care professionals](#), [international cultures](#), [www bbc co uk](#), [indianapolis area](#), [rosettastone](#), [spanish television](#), [beginning french](#), [language academy](#), [comm.ed](#), [hispanic population](#), [associate dean](#), [spanish classes](#), [open doors](#), [own pace](#), [spanish course](#), [IUPUI](#), [living](#)

[Follow this thread](#)

0 comments

[Log in](#) or [register](#) to leave a comment.

© 2009 Star Media
All rights reserved.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), updated December 2008.

Partners

[IndyStar.com](#) ·
[MetroMix](#) ·
[MomsLikeMe](#) ·
[IndyPaws](#) ·
[Gannett Co. Inc.](#) ·
[USA TODAY](#)

Star Media

[Terms of Service](#) ·
[Privacy Policy](#) ·
[Contact Us](#) ·
[About Us](#) ·
[Work for Us](#)

for Snopes.com.

[More »](#)

Popular tags

[American Idol](#) [Ballard Barack Obama](#) [Business Carmel High School](#) [Fort Wayne Hoosiers](#) [Indiana Pacers](#) [Indianapolis](#) [Indianapolis 500](#) [Indianapolis Colts](#) [Indianapolis Indians](#) [Indianapolis Motor Speedway](#) [Indystar](#) [Lucas Oil Stadium](#) [Marion Methodist Hospital](#) [Mitch Daniels](#) [Money NCAA](#) [NCAA Tournament](#) [News Notre Dame](#) [Pacers](#) [Purdue Victory Field](#) [Web West Lafayette](#) [World War II topstories](#)

x

Login or Email

Password

Not a current Indy.com user? [Join now](#)

[Message Log](#)