

# IELA Tandem Language E-Learning

**Learning in tandem** is a form of intercultural learning in which both partners benefit equally from the conversation. It is as easy as riding a tandem bike.....*students must work together and help each other to steer in the right direction!*

Equal time is spent on each language and both students should do their best to interact, discuss topics of mutual interest and get to know one another. Students are not expected to assess or examine each other, explain grammar rules or define any learning objectives. The supervised exchange is simply a fun & engaging way to improve oral and aural skills in both target languages.

## HOW DOES TANDEM LANGUAGE LEARNING WORK?

**Two students - two languages.....English and another target language like Spanish, French or German.**

A foreign student is paired with a native Irish student in order to improve their English Language skills and visa-versa for Irish students learning Spanish/French/German. Chats are a friendly experience and the main focus is on improving speaking and listening skills in your chosen language.

## WHEN AND WHERE DO STUDENTS MEET?

IELA assigns a time slot for both students to meet on our supervised online platform. A member of the IELA teaching team will oversee the chat and recommend questions or conversation topics for each session. They will also assist with any technical issues which may arise ensuring each student achieves the most out of their 20 minute assigned time enabling the conversation to flow.

## WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE SUPERVISED CHAT?

The chat is 40 minutes in total. The first 20 minutes is dedicated to spoken English followed by a “switch” of languages **half-way** through the session and the conversation continues in the second language for example Spanish/French/German.

IELA supervisors will assist if students are shy or inhibited and facilitate the chat so as to create a “bilingual” experience.

## HOW WILL STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM TANDEM LANGUAGE LEARNING SESSIONS?

Benefit for both students to **improve speaking and listening skills**. Students will become more confident and **lose the fear of expressing themselves** in another language.

**Tandem Exchanges** also allow students to **develop linguistic skills, boosting self-esteem and interpersonal skills**.

*Join the IELA Tandem Team today and make new friends...*