

Lesson plan

2nd learning package (two class hours – 90 minutes)



Didactic tools: Computer classroom or tablets or smartphones connected to the Internet

Target group: Students from 16 to 19 years old

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A) Countries and languages

The teacher displays the front page of <http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia/> which includes the map of Europe.

1. The students search for their country and show it on the map.

2. The students show neighbouring countries and say what their official languages are.

3. The students select three countries, say their names, show them on the map and say which languages are spoken there. They motivate why they chose the countries they chose.

The teacher loads this page: <http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>

1. The teacher shows if the answer was correct or not by moving the mouse over the country in question.

2. The teacher shows if the answers were correct or not by clicking on the dots of the countries in question. Some countries have several official languages, for this reason they have more than one dot.

3. The teacher shows if the answers were correct or not by moving the mouse over the countries in question and clicking on the dots.

B) Official and minority languages

4. The teacher and the students select among the available countries a country they do not know a lot about.

5. The teacher and the students look at the world map without peeking at the solutions on the top of the page.

The teacher asks:

- What does the map show?
- In which places does the selected language exist?
- Why is the map coloured with different colours? What do the colours mean?

4. By clicking the dot of the selected country and clicking the button "read more" the teacher and the students can read through a detailed description of the language.

5. The teacher should not show the text above the map!

Possible answers:

- The world with countries colour-coded.
- The students name the continents and/or the continents pertaining to the language.
- Blue - the chosen language is the official language in the country. Red - the chosen language is a minority language in the



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The teacher and the students together figure out that on the map blue means that the language is the official language of the country, that red means that it is a minority language and that green means that it is a language of diaspora.

6. The students select two additional languages and respond to the question:

- a) Where does the language appear as an official language, a minority language or the language of a diaspora?

country. Green - the chosen language is a diaspora language.

6. The students name the countries or continents associated with the selected language.

C) Looking at the site

7. Finally, everyone together looks through what is hidden on the four differently coloured parts of the site: Lingvopedia, Babylon, Lingvopolis and GeoLingvo. They can discuss the contents or simply out of curiosity look at all the pages.

The teacher returns to the main page (<http://lingvo.info/en/>), and opens up the four parts one after the other.

Lingvopedia contains interesting things about languages, Babylon contains easy-to-follow articles on diverse linguistic phenomena, Lingvopolis links to interesting sites about different languages and GeoLingvo is an interactive game about languages.

D) Independent activity

8. The students form groups of two or three and receive material consisting of three parts:

1. Instructions
2. Tasks
3. Worksheets

9. The teacher reads through the instructions with the students and clarifies them if needed.

10. The students, in groups of two or three, look

The students work in groups of two or three to solve the prepared tasks with the help of the page (<http://lingvo.info/>)

8. The teacher divides the students into groups of two or three. The prepared examples can be found at the end of this document.

9. All students receive the page: Instructions (see below)

10. All students receive the page: Tasks (see



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through the tasks in their groups and select two or three of the non-mandatory to solve in addition to the mandatory.

11. The students, in groups of two or three, solve the mandatory and the selected tasks.

below)

11. All students receive worksheets for filling in their responses.

E) Presentation of group work

12. The students present what they have learned during their explorations.

12. The teacher should make sure that all members of the group present a part of the explorations.

F) Homework

13. The plays the game GeoLingvo in groups of two or three before the next lesson.

14. On the following lesson one could have a discussion about the game and the site.

13. The teacher presents how the game is played and creates groups of two or three students who will play together. The students can play as guests, which is recommended, or using Facebook if they already have an account there.

14. This final discussion fills a purpose as it enables a critical evaluation of the site and the game.

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SHEET 1 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP WORK

1. Work in groups of two or three. Divide the work so that everyone does something. Share your work with the others in the group so that everyone has all the responses to the task.
2. Look through the tasks and decide with the other students which of the non-mandatory tasks you want to solve. Select two or three of the non-mandatory tasks.
3. Go to the site lingvo.info and select your language on the right side. (<http://lingvo.info>)
4. Using the site work together two or three and solve the mandatory and non-mandatory tasks.
 - Read through the instructions carefully and find the responses to the questions using the site.
 - Discuss the acquired information with the others in your group.
 - Write down the responses in your worksheet.
5. All groups present their findings.
6. You have 20 minutes available for the task.

GOOD LUCK!

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SHEET 2 – TASKS FOR GROUP WORK

Look through the tasks and the worksheet we received with the tasks. The starting point for finding the answers is <http://lingvo.info/>. Write down all requested information on the worksheet, where you can also find detailed instructions.

Mandatory tasks (N)

N1 LANGUAGE FAMILIES

- a) Go to the *Babylon* part and find out what language families exist in the world (http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/language_families). Find out which family your native language belongs to and look for other languages that belong to this family.

N2 HISTORY OF LANGUAGES

- a) Choose in every language family in Europe one language and write down information about the date and the origin of the first known text written in this language.
- b) Choose 3 more historical events that seem important to you.

N3 SEARCHING INFORMATION IN LINGVOPOLIS

- a) In *Lingvopolis* (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>) look for and write down the name and the address of a website where foreigners can learn Finnish.
- b) In *Lingvopolis* (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>) look for and write down the name and the address of a website where you can learn Slovak.
- c) In *Lingvopolis* (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>) look for and write down the name and the address of a website where you find something very surprising.

Non-mandatory tasks (IN)

N4 GRAMMATICAL NUMBERS

Go to *Lingvopedia*, find the country where you live on the map, click on the dot and read.

- a) Find out how many grammatical numbers exist in your language.
- b) Find a language which has the dual number.
- c) Find at least one language which doesn't have the dual number.

N5 CASES

Go to *Lingvopedia*, find the country where you live on the map, click on the dot and read.

- a) Find out how many cases exist in your language and write their names.



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- b) Find a language which has more cases and a language which has less cases than your language, and write down how many.

N6 ALPHABET

Go to *Lingvopedia*, find the country where you live on the map, click on the dot and read.

- a) Find out how many letters exist in the alphabet of your language.
- b) Search the number of letters in the alphabets of three other languages and compare them. Write down the differences you notice.

N7 CASES IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES

- a) Look for all languages that belong to the Slavic family.
- b) Write down how many cases the Slavic languages have and compare them.
- c) Look for the names of these cases and write down if the numbers are identical.

N8 THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

The German language can be found outside of Germany.

- a) In which countries is German official?
- b) Go to *Grammar* and write down the number of cases and their names.
- c) Go to *History* and look for four forms of the German languages known through history.

N9 WORD ORDER

At <http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/typology> you can find information about basic word order.

- a) Check what the word order is in a few other languages and write down an example.

N10 WRITING SYSTEMS

At http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/writing_systems various writing systems are described.

- a) What writing systems do you know?
- b) What types of writing systems do you know?
- c) Transcribe a symbol from a logographic writing system.
- d) What script does your mother tongue use? Name three other languages that use the same script. Do languages that use the same script belong to the same language family?

N11 ORIGIN OF WORDS

Go to *Babylon* and look for answers to the following questions at <http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/etymology>:



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- a) What is etymology?
- b) How do languages acquire new words? Write down.
- c) What is a loanword? Name at least three loanwords in your language.

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SHEET 3 - WORKSHEET

On this worksheet you write down the facts asked for in the tasks. Read through the tasks carefully search for the necessary information and write it down adequately.

Mandatory tasks

N1 LANGUAGE FAMILIES

- a) Go to the *Babylon* part and find out what language families exist in the world (http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/language_families). Find out which family your native language belongs to and look for other languages that belong to this family.

	Answer
Language families in Europe:	
Family your language belongs to:	
Aliajlingvoj el la samalingvafamilio:	

N2 HISTORY OF LANGUAGES

- a) Choose in every language family in Europe one language and write down information about the date and the origin of the first known text written in this language.

Choose 3 more historical events that seem important to you.



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	Answer
First chosen language:	
First text in this language:	
Three historical events that seem important to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
	Answer
Second chosen language:	
First text in this language:	
Three historical events that seem important to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

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	Answer
Third chosen language:	
First text in this language:	
Three historical events that seem important to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

N3 SEARCHING INFORMATION IN LINGVOPOLIS

- In *Lingvopolis* (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>) look for and write down the name and the address of a website where foreigners can learn Finnish.
- In *Lingvopolis* (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>) look for and write down the name and the address of a website where you can learn Slovak.
- In *Lingvopolis* (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>) look for and write down the name and the address of a website where you find something very surprising.

	Answer
Website where you can learn Finnish:	
Website where you can learn Slovak:	
Website where you found something very surprising:	



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Non-mandatory tasks

N4 GRAMMATICAL NUMBERS

Go to *Lingvopedia*, find the country where you live on the map, click on the dot and read.

- Find out how many grammatical numbers exist in your language.
- Find a language which has the dual number.
- Find at least one language which doesn't have the dual number.

	Answer
Number of grammatical numbers:	
Language with dual:	
Language without dual:	

N5 CASES

Go to *Lingvopedia*, find the country where you live on the map, click on the dot and read.

- Find out how many cases exist in your language and write their names.
- Find a language which has more cases and a language which has less cases than your language, and write down how many.

	Answer
Number of cases in your language:	



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Names of cases in your language:	
Language with more cases than your language and number of cases:	
Language with fewer cases than your language and number of cases:	

N6 ALPHABET

Go to *Lingvopedia*, find the country where you live on the map, click on the dot and read.

- Find out how many letters exist in the alphabet of your language.
- Search the number of letters in the alphabets of three other languages and compare them. Write down the differences you notice.

	Answer
Number of letters in the alphabet of your language:	
Number of letters in other languages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

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Differences:

Remarks:

N7 CASES IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES

- a) Look for all languages that belong to the Slavic family.
- b) Write down how many cases the Slavic languages have and compare them.
- c) Look for the names of these cases and write down if the numbers are identical.

Answer

Languages belonging to the Slavic family:

Number of cases of each language:

Comparison and number of cases. Write the differences about the names and what names are the same:

N8 THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

The German language can be found outside of Germany.

- a) In which countries is German official?
- b) Go to *Grammar* and write down the number of cases and their names.
- c) Go to *History* and look for four forms of the German languages known through history.

Answer



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Countries where German is official:	
Number of cases and their names:	
4 forms of German through history:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••••

N9 WORD ORDER

At <http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/typology> you can find information about the basic word order in sentences.

- a) Check what the word order is in a few other languages and write down an example.

	Answer
Basic word order:	
Word order in another language:	
Example:	

N10 WRITING SYSTEMS



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At http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/writing_systems various writing systems are described.

- What writing systems do you know?
- What types of writing systems do you know?
- Transcribe a symbol from a logographic writing system.
- What script does your mother tongue use? Name three other languages that use the same script. Do languages that use the same script belong to the same language family?

	Answer
Writing systems:	
Types of writing systems:	
Symbol from a logographic script:	
Script of your language:	
Three languages which use the same script and their families:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

N11 ORIGIN OF WORDS

Go to *Babylon* and look for answers to the following questions at <http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/etymology>:

- What is etymology?
- How do languages acquire new words? Write down.
- What is a loanword? Name at least three loanwords in your language.



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	Answer
Short definition of etymology:	
Manners to acquire new words:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
Short definition of a loanword:	
Three loanwords in your language (and the languages they come from):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••