Class Performance

- Listen carefully to your teacher's pronunciation and imitate her speech. Don't be afraid to make mistakes when speaking. Pay attention to your classmates' errors and the teacher's corrections.
- When copying your teacher's board notes, write down not just the particular verb conjugation, pronoun form, etc. but also when to use it.
- Always take notes while watching class videos because the images can help you understand a vocabulary word, idiom, or grammar concept.

Building Long-Term Memory

- Instead of re-reading the textbook or the teacher’s review sheets, actively study the material using a variety of senses. For example, (1) review silently, (2) practice aloud with a friend or to yourself, (3) copy it out, and (4) quiz yourself. Including “see it, say it, write it, and use it” sends the material through different parts of your brain, creating stronger connections to that memory.
- For language learning, auditory is the most important sense to engage for speaking and memory. Quiz a friend or self-quiz aloud.
- Taking just 10 minutes can be an effective way to strengthen new memories. You may think, “I’ve only got a little while. I can’t do anything productive right now.” But those little bits of time will add up and build long-term memory!

Studying for Tests and Exams

- For vocabulary, use quizlet.com, index cards, or parallel columns in a notebook. Break large lists of words into groups of seven; learn the first group and then go to the 2nd.
- When studying a language, routine practice is more successful than trying to memorize all at once. Spread out your review over several days. Cramming in language is not a successful strategy for long-term retention.
- Create a distributed study plan: break the material into smaller parts, and be concrete about the work you plan to do – “Quiz myself on Chapter 5 vocab for 30 minutes.”