

Hola from Chile!

I was asked to provide the Garlic Cream Sauce recipe that I referred to in the last update and if one person wants to try it, perhaps others would also. So I'll include it here. Please let me know if you do and what you think of it. I've made it several times already and I plan to include it in our meals in the future from time to time.

Garlic Cream Sauce

Ingredients:

+250 grams of butter. That's about 9 ounces, but a little more or a little less won't hurt. ;)

8-10 fresh garlic pieces, crushed

1 block of Philadelphia cream cheese or equivalent (8 ounces?)

1 cup heavy whipping cream

pepper

salt

- Melt the butter and cook the fresh garlic (8-10 pieces) in the butter for 5-6 minutes. Don't burn it.
- Cut up and melt a block of cream cheese into it. It takes cooking and stirring until it melts together. It takes a little time to incorporate it. Just keep stirring. When the cream cheese is mostly melted, turn off the fire.
- Add about a cup of heavy cream. Stir to incorporate it. Once it is melted into a sauce add pepper and salt to taste. We like a lot of pepper!
- Add noodles and some separately cooked meat and there you go! Enjoy! Chicken and pork go well with it.

Spanish Language news

I have decided that I will no longer take University classes in Spanish. At least not for now. I also felt strongly that working with the Immigration Clinic was not in the will of God.

So...what to do???

When God closes one door, **he opens a better one!** After deciding this, I was contacted by my Missionary Supervisor and asked to teach in the Chilean Bible School. I wasn't asking, but God knows what he is doing. I will be starting in March and I think the first class is Old



Testament Survey. I'll get the materials and thoroughly review them ahead of time in preparation. In case you didn't realize this, I love teaching. You could say, ***I am the cat in cream!*** I couldn't do this before because it is all in Spanish, obviously, and I would not have been very effective. But now with my improvements in Spanish it should be much better. It will stretch my abilities also.

One of the most effective ways I have found to improve my Spanish is through reading in the language. If you are interested, I have an explanation of how to effectively acquire a language at the end of this update.

I have just finished reading the book about Corrie Ten Boom (The title is "The Watchmaker's Daughter"). I understood almost everything without translating. There are some places where I had to reread a passage a couple of times but my brain somehow filled in the gaps and I understood exactly what is written. It's a little freaky, but it expands my vocabulary and usable grammar skills at such a prodigious rate that the Spanish classes at the University can't



This is my barber. We were talking about the goodness of God while she snipped away and she expressed an interest in hearing more... Please pray with us that her heart will be open to the Lord... I've got to go back to get another haircut in a couple days... Call her "C".

keep up. I've now started reading a book about the FBI's efforts in using psychological profiling to catch criminals called "Cazador de Mentes" (Mindhunter) by former Special Agent John Douglas and Mark Olshaker. I understand most of it without translation and it's very interesting.

Full disclosure: I read the book twice already in English in the past. I'm not approaching it "cold" like I did "The Watchmaker's Daughter" but the level of Spanish is about the same.

If I went back to the University it would be like slogging through mud instead of skiing down the slopes! Maybe later I'll seek out a Spanish Language Level certification in case I need something official in the future.

Church news

Renovations at our new Church location are going well. They slowed down a bit for the summer because people are gone and what not, but we actually got the air conditioning working! Did I tell you it's hot here right now? It's hot! It really brings new meaning to those song lyrics "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"!

We had something almost completely

unheard of happen. It **STORMED** with thunder and lighting during the last week in January (you can see it in the sky behind the picture of the kumquat tree). It does not normally rain in the summer here! It happened again on the weekend but one of the brothers here was repairing his roof so we asked the Lord to make it stop lest his house be damaged, and the Lord stopped the rain. God is SO good!

The Church has just added a new addendum to our building contract. In the original we were limited in what we could change in the building and in our service times. Now we have the freedom to do *everything*. We are considering changing our service times to Sunday morning since we believe that it will promote evangelism and be generally more convenient.

Ginger has begun playing piano for the Church services. This gives the Pastor's wife a much needed break as she has been carrying that load constantly for years! She is very happy to have some help and Ginger is loving every minute of it!

Thanks to those who made donations to help make the Church renovations possible! We really appreciate it, and God keeps records! Just like your prayers, giving to missions is being a part of missions! You may not be able to go and do the work personally, but you are able to join in and be a blessing to the Work! And God returns the blessings back to you! **Ecclesiastes 11:1** says:

“Cast your bread on the waters;
for you shall find it after many days.”

Who knows what God will do with the contributions, both physical and spiritual, that you make. We only know that he will bring them back to us in due time, more abundantly than when we gave them.

NOT Alternative Missionary Entertainment!

If you have read our past updates you know it is common that I include pictures of street entertainers here in Chile. They include everything from jugglers, to bicycle stunt riders, and they're quite entertaining! They usually perform in the middle of the street in front of all the cars that are stopped for a red light. They do a quick version of their act, and then they solicit handouts from the people in the cars at the stoplight. This gives them a broad audience, because they get a new audience every time the light changes! At least they're doing something to make some money!

However, this month, for the first time that I've seen, there was a *belly dancer* at the stoplight! Yes, a



It says “Eat Like a Goat”!
I don't know what that's all about
but it's funny!



real “Alibaba and the 40 Thieves” type belly dancer! Obviously, I did not take a picture! I am all for belly dancing *if* you keep it within your marriage inside the privacy of your own home. It's not something that should be displayed publicly.

Alternative Missionary Nutrition

Since the Lord healed me of the Nightshade Sensitivity last month I've been eating potatoes and tomatoes and chilies like I can't get enough! I do have to be careful of eating too many french fries, though, lest I become as big as a house! Nevertheless I am enjoying these flavorful parts of life. Thank you Jesus again, for healing me!

I obtained and have been growing a Kumquat tree on our balcony since last year. It's still small but it does produce kumquats from time to time. There aren't any on it now because I ate them. I estimated that the tree has grown about 6 inches in the last year or so.

Year end at work

Ginger just completed wrapping up the accounting year for her company! Yay! Life renews! This is usually the most stressful time of the year for internal Accounting teams and it requires most of her time. It is not unexpected but it isn't much fun either. We thank God it is over for 2025!

Thank you and may God bless you all!
- Bill and Ginger

How to acquire a foreign language

I think I've thought of a way to explain how to acquire another language in visual terms. If you are a visual learner this may make a lot of sense to you.

There is a difference between taking traditional language classes and language acquisition. Traditional language classes typically focus on learning vocabulary and grammar without much context. You take tests and do exercises and get grades based on how much you remember. Kind of like math and english classes. However, they don't actually teach you the language. They teach you ABOUT the language! So, after many years of taking classes you take a trip to a country that speaks this language and discover that ***you can't actually USE it!*** You logically, but incorrectly, assume that you are terrible at learning languages and lose most of your incentive to learn it. Sound familiar?

You are not terrible at learning languages if you already speak your native tongue. You have already proven that you are capable of learning a complex language without much difficulty because **YOU'VE ALREADY DONE IT!** What is missing is the correct approach to learning the language.

Traditional language classes are taught in the pattern of learning Latin, a dead language. Nobody actually speaks Latin, except some priests and some really nerdy individuals! BTW, I applaud those folks for their accomplishments because I'm really impressed! But realistically there are no countries out there that have Latin as a national language that is ongoing and developing in the modern age. ***There is a better way...***



How Languages are Actually Learned



1. Puzzle

This is the picture that the puzzle will look like. It's like the picture on the puzzle box.

Language

This is the language you want to learn with complete fluency. It's like a translation into your native language.



2. Puzzle

These are individual random puzzle pieces.

Language

These represent random vocabulary words, phrases, and grammar rules.



3. Puzzle

This is a pile of puzzle pieces. We need to flip the pieces onto the "picture" side and begin to sort them. This takes time and attention.

Language

This is a pile of vocabulary words, phrases, and grammar rules that seem incomprehensible at the beginning. We need to group them in logical order (like "travel words").

This takes time and attention. Traditional language classes do this well and are a good *starting place* when learning a language.



4. Puzzle

This is the puzzle border with pieces, but there is no order and no possibility to discern the whole picture. The only way to see the whole picture is to look at the picture on the box.

Language

This is a basic framework of the language but understanding is limited to some words, rules, and phrases. There is almost no comprehension of the language. You're going to need a translator. This was my level of Spanish when we arrived in Chile in 2024.



5. Puzzle

These are similar pieces that are grouped together by color or type and we can comprehend a few parts of the picture, but it is still a mystery.

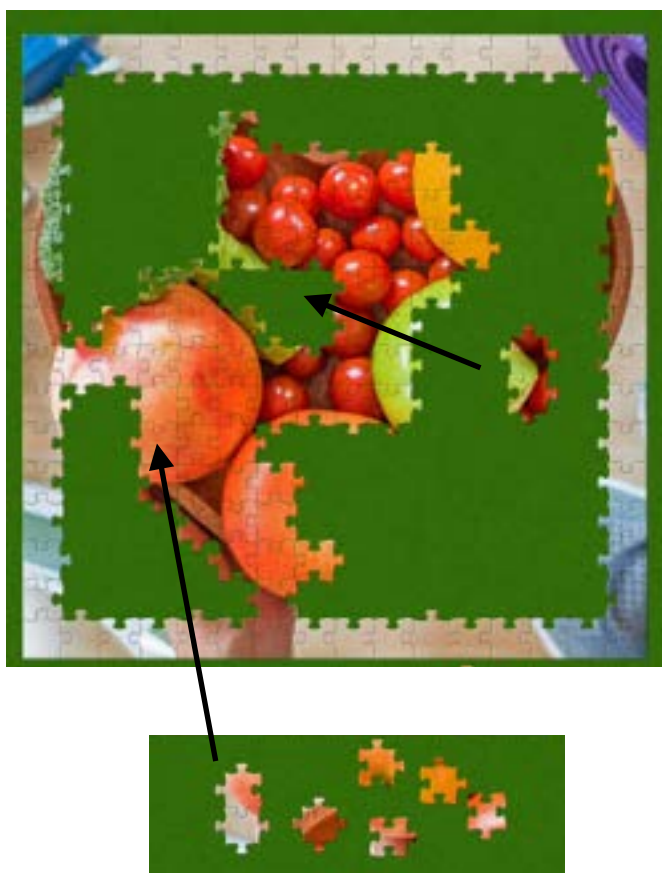
Language

This is about the limit of traditional classes. Parts are known but disconnected and dreams of fluency seem unreachable.



Heartbroken to announce that,
once again, I did not wake up
fluent in Spanish today.

Please respect my privacy
at this difficult time.



6. Puzzle

This is the groups of pieces starting to fit together logically and correctly. Note that with a little observation your brain will show you where both of the “2-piece” parts logically fit!

Language

Once you have a basic vocabulary to work with you need language input that is correct and is +80% comprehensible. There are many sources of decent input through the internet for the 6 CEFR* levels of language skills that were developed and are promoted by the European Union. The levels are A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. A1 is a complete beginner and C2 is near-native fluency. When you can understand about 80% of the input, your brain will make connections automatically, rapidly adding new and memorable vocabulary in logical contexts, and provide the correct “way” to say something without bothering to use grammar “rules”. Children learn their native languages this way. Most children don’t see a grammar textbook in their own language until they are almost pre-teens. They “feel” their way around the correct way to say things naturally. Vocabulary is built through exposure to more words. Children who read a lot tend to have large and diverse vocabularies as well as being more articulate than children who do not. More exposure to the language increases language skill. It’s the same with a foreign language.

*CEFR stands for the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

It is an **international standard** used to **describe and measure language proficiency**. CEFR helps learners, teachers, schools, and employers clearly understand **what a person can do in a language**—in speaking, listening, reading, and writing—regardless of the language being studied.



7. Puzzle

More of the picture is becoming clear.

Knowledge of the image is incomplete but we know that it shows fruit and vegetables. You can probably guess what is shown in the top right corner and your guess is almost certainly correct, even though you can't actually see that part of the puzzle yet!

Language

This is where the language starts to become exciting! You're beginning to understand some of the everyday use of the language and, while you are not sure about everything that is being said, you are getting more than just the gist of it. The brain enjoys snapping various parts together and your comprehension is skyrocketing! You are starting to become fluent!



8. Puzzle

More parts are being added. The picture is slowly more visible. Now you are just trying to fill in the rest of the picture. Unless you look at the picture on the puzzle box you probably don't know that the bottom left corner contains a human hand. But it's not necessary to know *everything* to understand and describe *most* of the picture. With patience and continued exposure it will eventually become clear and accurate.

Language

This is about where I am with Spanish right now. I can use it effectively even though I don't understand everything! But it's coming together! Increasing my level of exposure to input where I still understand +80% adds new vocabulary and language structures to my mind very rapidly. The level is increasingly difficult but it doesn't feel like that because I have no trouble understanding the majority. The knowledge compounds upon itself in amount and speed of acquisition.



**9. Puzzle**

There is just a little bit more to fill in, but it's just a matter of course. Note that we still don't see the hand yet. That's okay. We still see the main parts of the picture!

Language

Fluency is not perfection, it's communication. Perfect understanding is not needed for good communication and people tend to appreciate the effort it takes to learn their language and will help you along the journey. Continued comprehensible input at $\pm 80\%$ will eventually fill in the blanks.

**10. Puzzle**

This is the complete picture and it matches the picture on the puzzle box.

Language

This is where you are functionally skilled in your foreign language on a level comparable to native speakers. There will always be more to learn in this language just as there is always more to learn in your native language.

By the way, once you have learned a second foreign language, subsequent languages become much easier to learn since throughout the process you realize what parts are truly important and you can focus on those things. Spanish is my third language. It was much easier and faster to learn because of my previous experience learning German, which took a long time. You start to learn "how" to learn. If you're interested in acquiring a new language let me encourage you to jump in. **You** CAN do it!