



## Bluebird – Power User Tips

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### DAILY LESSONS

Bluebird’s Daily Lessons serve two purposes: They are good “warm-up” exercises before you work within any of the Language Learning Levels (described below) or your Personalized Course (also described below). They are also good for people who don’t have more than 5 or 10 minutes a day to work on a language. Each daily lesson is about 5 minutes long, and comes with a set of quizzes to test and reinforce what you learned. If you are a beginner, we recommend only doing each day’s Beginner lesson, and don’t attempt the Intermediate or Advanced lessons.

Tip: Lessons for previous days are accessible by tapping on the date.

If you are a premium member, you can also download, in PDF format, a study guide for the current week’s Daily Lessons. It contains all the instructional phrases for the current week for all three skill levels (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), presented in both your native language and the learning language (with phonetic transcription when applicable).

### ABOUT THE LANGUAGE-LEARNING LEVELS

Bluebird’s instructional content is organized in “levels.” Each level (described below) is a building-block approach of increasing complexity (Core Vocabulary is the least complex, and Conversation is the most complex). Within each level are dozens of “units” that are based on topics. Under each unit are thousands of instructional phrases. 80% of the languages taught in Bluebird have 10,000 instructional phrases; the total number of words that make up these phrases, per language, is over 33,000.

- The Core Vocabulary level contains the 2,000 most commonly used words in each language, covering about 84% of everyday speech. The 142 lessons in this level average 30 minutes each, and are mostly beginner-level difficulty.
- The Essential Verbs level teaches interactive verb conjugations for 100 commonly used verbs, in the past, present and future tenses. The 300 lessons in this level average 15 minutes each. The lessons range from beginner to intermediate.
- The Creating Sentences level teaches you how to construct complete sentences, and uses vocabulary from the Core Vocabulary level, and verbs from the Essential Verbs level. The 279 lessons in this level average 15 minutes each. The lessons range from intermediate to advanced.
- The Powerful Phrases level contains 1,500 essential phrases for everyday life. The 85 lessons in this level average 30 minutes each. The lessons range from intermediate to advanced.
- The Conversation level contains the longest audio lessons (about 45 minutes each). The 77 lessons in this level range from intermediate to advanced.

## AUDIO LESSONS

- When you finish an audio lesson, you will see a blue egg in the upper right of the lesson image. If you listen to a partial lesson, you will see a gray egg.
- Bluebird remembers your progress in every single audio lesson you take. So you don't have to remember to save your place (it's done automatically without you having to think about it).
- Each lesson contains bilingual subtitles that are time-coded to match the audio lesson.
- Each lesson contains photographs that illustrate each concept you are learning. There are 10,000 custom photographs in Bluebird, one for each instructional phrase that you learn.

## QUIZZES

- When you finish a quiz, you will see a blue ribbon with your score in the upper right of the image for that quiz. Let's say for example you take one quiz in a unit within the Core Vocabulary level, and that unit has two quizzes. When you look at the image for that unit, you will see a golden ribbon. When you have completed both quizzes, the ribbon will turn blue, indicating that you have completed all the quizzes in that unit. Complete all the quizzes in an entire level, and you will get a blue ribbon for that entire level.
- You can take a quiz as many times as you like. The program will only save your most recent quiz score for that quiz.
- Each time you take a quiz, the questions and question types are randomized, so you will always be challenged.

## PRONUNCIATION ANALYSIS

Bluebird's Pronunciation Analysis feature gives you a real-time score based on how well you pronounce each phrase. We first released this feature over 10 years ago in our Pronunciator program, and have been improving it ever since. With over 360,000 lines of code, our proprietary pronunciation analyzer algorithm is robust and fast.

Here's how it works:

1. Listen to the native speaker pronounce the phrase
2. When the red animated line starts moving, start speaking. The red line shows you how much time you have to speak.
3. Your score, on a scale of 0 to 100, is then displayed on the meter. If your score is 80 or above, you can move to the next phrase. If it is less than 80, you will be given two more chances to score 80 or above, before moving on to the next phrase.

Important tips:

- You need to be in a very quiet location for the score to be accurate. The pronunciation analyzer is highly sensitive to noise (which is how it is able to distinguish between "straight" and "street," for example).
- You need to speak only while the red animated line is visible. If you speak before, or after, your recording will be cut off and you will get a lower score.

- The algorithm is indifferent to gender or age. Just because the native speaker may be female, and you are male, for example, doesn't mean that it won't work well.
- If you get scores that are lower than you think you deserve, don't worry: the important thing is that you are speaking out loud and practicing. The algorithm doesn't judge you as a person, merely the sounds that it hears (including any ambient sound around you).
- Pronunciation Analysis is only available in the main learning levels (Core Vocabulary through Conversation).

## FLASHCARDS

Our Flashcards system helps you learn phrases fast and retain them long-term. You can do a Flashcards drill for any Bluebird lesson (with the exception of Daily Lessons and Personalized Courses). Here's how it works:

A photo is displayed, and you think whether you know it or not. When you are ready, tap the Reveal Answer button. If you didn't know the answer, tap the icon of the unhappy face on the far left. If you guessed the answer correctly, but aren't confident that you know it well, tap the icon of the face to the right of the unhappy face. If you knew it, but want to be asked again in a few days just to be sure, tap the smiley face that is the third icon from the left. If you knew it well, and don't need to be asked again, tap the icon of the face with sunglasses, and you won't be asked about this phrase again.

When you have marked all the phrases in a Flashcards drill as either "Know it, but remind me in a few days" or "I know it cold, don't ask again," then the drill will be complete, and a yellow flashcard icon will appear in the image for this unit. In a few days, the flashcard icon may turn red, which means you should tap on it and do the relevant Flashcard drill that contains phrases that you wanted to be reminded about.

When you have marked all the phrases in a Flashcards drill as "I know it cold, don't ask again," the Flashcards drill will permanently disappear from the relevant lesson.

## PERSONALIZED COURSES\*

\*Personalized courses are only available to premium members.

- When you create a Personalized Course, Bluebird also creates a custom study guide just for you in PDF format that you can download.

- A Personalized Course has 5 days of learning, and one day of review. The review day consists of a quiz on all the instructional phrases that you learned during the week. But there's something more: At the end of the review day quiz, you have an option to create a custom audio lesson and custom set of quizzes specifically on the instructional phrases that you got wrong in the review quiz!

- Personalized courses can last from one month to one year in length. Tip: An 8-week course is a good length to have. You can create as many personalized courses as you like.

## HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY EACH DAY?

If you only have 5 minutes a day to study, just do the Daily Lesson for your skill level (and add an additional few minutes to take the quiz). But you can also create a Personalized course, and specify that you only want to learn 4 or 5 phrases per day, and each personalized lesson will be about 5 minutes long. The more phrases you choose to learn per day, the longer each personalized lesson will be. For example, if you choose to learn 20 phrases a day, each lesson will be about 30 minutes long.

## OFFLINE MODE

- You can bookmark any lesson to save it for offline use. When you are in offline mode, the program will automatically open up the library where all your bookmarked lessons are saved. There is no limit (beyond your available storage space) to how many lessons can be bookmarked.
- In addition, Bluebird will *automatically* save the last 10 lessons you have listened to for offline use. (Premium members get their past 50 lessons saved automatically.)

## NARRATION AND INTERFACE LANGUAGE

- To change your narration (and interface) language, use the cabinet menu on the left side of the app (drag from the left edge to the right, or use the “hamburger” icon to open it).
- The interface languages are sorted by native script. Latin characters, then Cyrillic, then the right-to-left, followed by the Near East and Far East languages. Just keep scrolling to see them all.

## MY COURSES

- New in version 1.4.1 was the addition of “My Courses” (found in the cabinet menu), which automatically provides quick access to the courses of each language that you are studying.

## HISTORY

- New in version 1.4.0 was the addition of “History” (found in the cabinet menu), which automatically saves and provides quick access to the last 10 lessons you were listening to (and their quizzes).

## FUN FACTS

- The content that you have access to for free in Bluebird took us over 11 years to develop and record. This is the highest-quality and largest amount of content that is available in any language-learning app. We use only human translators, proofreaders, and voice artists – no machine translation or text-to-speech robots were used. Our voice artists are always native speakers of the language, and are often well-known radio or television personalities in their own countries (e.g. BBC, ITV, RAI, etc.)
- There are over 6.2 million hours of pre-recorded lessons available in Bluebird. That is 713 years of content. And that total doesn't even include the *unlimited* hours of lessons that you can create in the Personalized Courses. This is the largest selection of audiobooks anywhere in the world (about three times the size of the entire Audible.com catalogue, for example).
- The average number of instructional phrases that comprise a Bluebird course is nearly 10,000. This is exponentially larger than any other product.

- The 146 narration languages in Bluebird represent about 98% of the world's population. It means that 98% of the world's people can learn a new language from their mother tongue. It is truly a global solution.

- There are currently 23,798 language permutations possible in Bluebird. That means that 163 languages can be learned in any of 146 mother tongues!

### THANK YOU

Thank you for your support, and please share Bluebird with your friends and family. Feel free to contact us at any time: [support@bluebirdlanguages.com](mailto:support@bluebirdlanguages.com)