

# TUESDAY TECH TIP

NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY/NIAGA LIBRARY SYSTEM

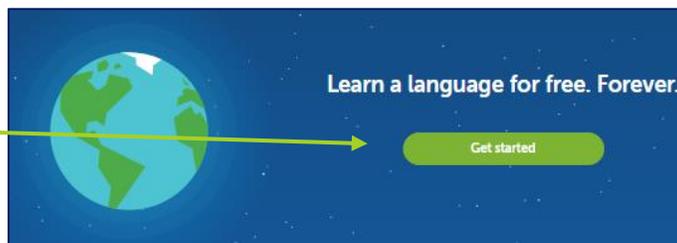
FEBRUARY 6, 2018: DUOLINGO

The popularity of language learning software like Rosetta Stone and audio programs like Pimsleur prove that people enjoy learning foreign languages. Language learners have a wide variety of tools available to them, and Duolingo is one that can fit in your hand!

Duolingo allows users to practice foreign languages on the mobile application and website. The course offering is impressive, with over 31 languages for English speakers – including Klingon! There are also courses for native speakers of Arabic, Hindi, Spanish, Russian and over 20 other world languages.

## GETTING STARTED WITH DUOLINGO (WEB)

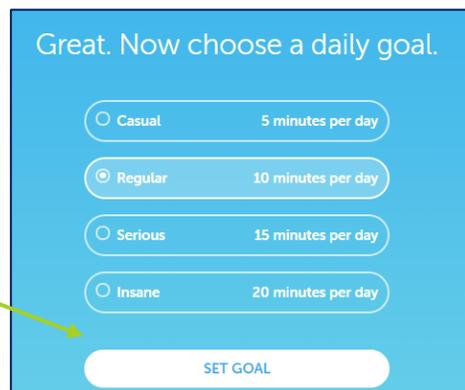
1. Go to <http://duolingo.com> in your web browser, and click **Get Started**.



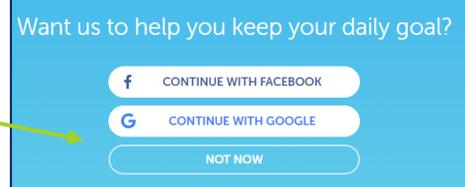
2. Pick the language you want to begin learning from the list of 32 options.

You can always add additional languages later, but you need to pick just one to start.

3. Set a daily learning goal. You have the ability to study with Duolingo for longer than your chosen minutes, but setting a daily goal keeps you on track to meet your minimum target.



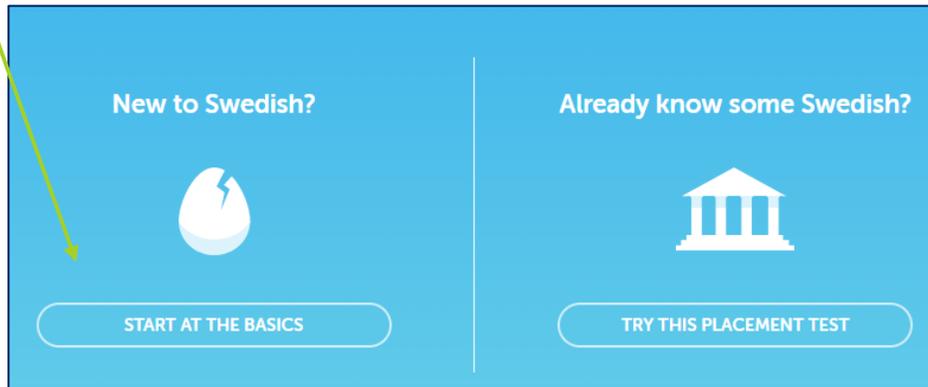
4. You will then be prompted to continue with Facebook or Google to help keep your goal. You can click **Not Now** and complete registration later.



## LEARNING THE LANGUAGE (WEB)

When you first begin, you have an opportunity to take a placement test if you are already familiar with a language. Your performance on this test will determine where you will begin your lessons.

If you are familiar with a language but not confident, you can always begin with **START AT THE BASICS** and review what you already know.



If at any point you feel you know the material in a section and don't need to review, you can click **TEST OUT** to prove your proficiency and skip to the next topic.

Each topic has lessons (the exact number varies), as well as grammar and vocabulary **Tips and notes**.

*Hint:* Tips and notes available when using the Duolingo app.

Basics  
0/3 Lessons completed TEST OUT

Lesson 1 of 3  
man, kvinna, är, pojke, flicka, jag, en START

Lesson 2 of 3  
han, hon, ett, äpple, och, äter LOCKED

Lesson 3 of 3  
disker, vatten, marinen, kvinnan, bröd LOCKED

Tips and notes

**Two genders – but four pronouns!**  
That seems a bit overkill – but it is actually quite logical (we Swedes like logic).

First of all you might wonder what a gender is. Well, there are two kinds of gender – natural (male and female) and grammatical gender.

English only uses natural gender ("he" for males, "she" for females and "it" for objects) whereas Romance languages such as French use natural genders ("he" and "she") as grammatical gender as well (everything is thus either a "he" or a "she" in French).

Swedish has a double system. When talking about people, we use the natural gender (he and she) but when we aren't talking about humans, you have to look at the grammatical gender. Swedish words belong either to the en-words (also called *n-words*, *common gender* or *utrum*) or to the ett-words (also called *t-words*, *neuter* or *neutrum*).

The names en-words and ett-words are derived from the indefinite article (singular) of each group, both corresponding to a(n) in English.

Examples

Female	Male	En-words	Ett-words
hon <i>she</i>	han <i>he</i>	den <i>it</i>	det <i>it</i>

## EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Select the word for "a man"



1  en man

2  vatten

3  en flicka

Write "water" in Swedish



vatten|

↑ a a o e

Mark all correct meanings

He is a man.

1  Han är flicka.

2  Pojke är en karl.

3  Han är en man.

Write this in English

🔊 Jag är en flicka.

I am a girl|

- Some questions require you to speak into a microphone in order to practice pronunciation. If you don't have a microphone or aren't in a setting where you can speak, there is no need to worry. You can skip these questions.

## LEVELING UP

Finishing lessons will increase your fluency and you will level up in your language.

Lesson complete! +10 XP



10/10 XP

T W T F S S M

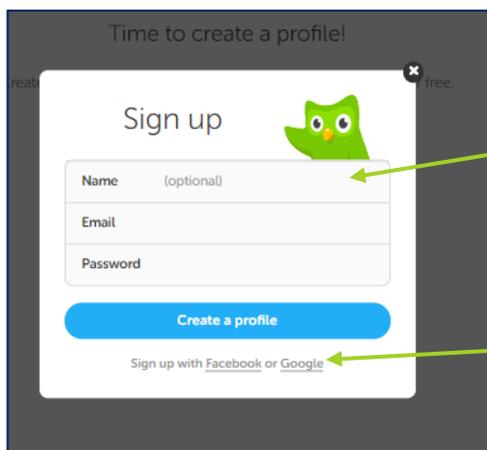
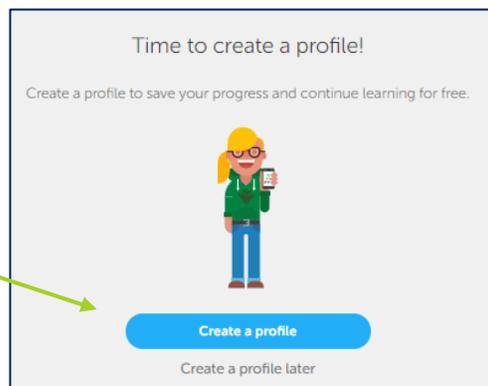
You are now 5% fluent in Swedish!



Each completed lesson gives you a certain amount of XP, which is included in your daily goal tracking.

## FINISHING YOUR PROFILE

After your first lesson, you will be invited to create a Duolingo profile. Creating an account is necessary to track progress over time.



Creating a profile is quick and easy! You only need an email address and a new Duolingo password - you don't even need to provide your name!

Alternatively, you can choose to create an account by linking Duolingo with your Facebook or Google account (you will need to log in with the information for your chosen account).

## DUOLINGO APP

Duolingo apps are available for iOS and Android devices. They can be downloaded for free in the Apple App and Google Play stores. There are significant differences between the web and app versions, most notably in the supplemental grammar explanations.

Duolingo hosts a thriving Discussion board area. The advantages of using each version of Duolingo have been debated. Here are a few points brought up by active Duolingo users:

