



Type of Language Learners

Simultaneous language learner:

Children who learn more than one language from birth

Sequential language learner:

Children who learn an additional language after they have acquired their first one

Example 1

Zeynep was born in Manchester. Her mother is from Turkey and her father is from the UK. Zeynep's parents have spoken to her in both Turkish and English since she was born. She also has two older siblings who speak English to one another much of the time at home.

Zeynep is a **simultaneous** learner of Turkish and English

Example 2

Aleksander has lived in the UK since birth but has only been spoken to in Polish at home. Both parents are originally from Poland; they moved to the UK when Aleksander's mother was pregnant with him. Aleksander doesn't have any siblings.

The family have several friends in the local area; all of who are also Polish.

Aleksander has heard small amounts of English when out and about with his parents.

He has recently started nursery where he is being properly exposed to English for the first time.

Aleksander is a **sequential** learner. He is learning English after gaining good skills in Polish.

Example 3

Bishaaro moved to the UK with her family from Somalia. While living in Somalia, Bishaaro was using Somali and Arabic. She had been exposed to both languages from birth. On arrival in the UK, Bishaaro started school almost immediately, which is where she was first properly submerged into the English language.

From birth, Bishaaro was **simultaneously** learning Somali and Arabic.

She is now **sequentially** learning English.

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