

## Modern languages online proves to be a big hit at Bradford Learning Centre

Many people think that languages are best taught in a classroom environment but one solution is not always suitable for everyone and many people are now using online course because they are, cost effective, accessible and flexible. That's the view of some learners at Bradford who use [livemocha.com](http://livemocha.com)



[Livemocha.com](http://Livemocha.com) is a web based language learning website that uses online instructional content with a community of language learners. [Livemocha.com](http://Livemocha.com) supports six popular languages – English, Spanish, French, Hindi, German, and Mandarin Chinese and more are on the way.

It provides lesson plans and you choose friends, who are all members and learning a language, to help and support you. For example if you are learning Spanish then a Spanish member will help you out. In turn you help them. Lesson plans include over 160 hours of beginner and intermediate level content teaching everyday conversational language along with a full range of practical reading, listening, writing and speaking exercises.

Mick Ball works at Bradford Mail Centre and when he attended a learning centre open day he was introduced to [livemocha.com](http://livemocha.com). He had booked a holiday to Spain and said he would like to learn Spanish. Lead ULR, Nigel Backhouse took him to one of the computers and showed him [livemocha.com](http://livemocha.com). Five months on and Mick's Spanish continues to improve and he still has the appetite to do more. But it's Mick's experience of the site and the benefits of self-support e-learning which is really interesting.

Mick feels that “Being able to access the learning at anytime offers real flexibility where classes can be sometimes rigid. Anyone can access the site if they have access to a computer and broadband and it’s free. You work at your own pace and don’t need to keep up with people and you never miss a lesson. You choose when to learn”

The main difference with this site to many others is the support that you receive from other members or friends as the site describes them. These are people who help and advise you. You submit both written and oral work to other members who mark the work and provide feedback especially with pronunciation and dialect. Equally, you provide feedback and help to someone who is learning English.

Mick went on to say “it is an excellent resource to use and having the support of others who can speak the language fluently is really beneficial. People take the time trouble to help you, mark your work, correct you and talk to you. I have friend who support me that live in, Spain, Argentina, Columbia and Bolivia. Helping other people to improve their English is also rewarding you support them, mark their work and feedback using written and recorded messages”.

Mick is just one CWU member using livemaocha.com all of who consider it to be a great resource. For those of you who would like to try it out the address is: [www.livemocha.com](http://www.livemocha.com)