

the world, but they also learned a lot about geography and where different countries are located on the globe.”

Drive-By Foreign Languages

Practice foreign languages by translating the names of common things you see through the car window into the language you want to practice. To practice nouns, one player calls out whatever he or she sees in English—car, boy, cow, and so forth—and the other players try to say the word in Spanish, French, or any other language. You can also translate street signs for danger, police, fire, stop, hospital, and so forth. To practice numbers, have a player call out in English the numbers of passing car license plates and mileage signs—and have the other players say them in a foreign language. Eventually, as you gain proficiency in a language, try to translate complete phrases and sentences on billboards. It helps to keep a foreign language dictionary handy in the car for words that you don’t know.

Variation

Katie M.’s family has refined this game slightly. They pick a category (animals, numbers, colors, and so forth) and call out what they see in Spanish. For example, let’s say the category is “numbers.” Her carschoolers take turns spotting road signs with numbers on them (mileage or speed limit signs) and saying the number in Spanish instead of English. Or if the category is “animals” and someone sees a cow, they all say *vaca* instead of *cow*. She says it has really helped everyone to improve.

Signing Signs

Shannon H. of California has a degree in American Sign Language/Interpreting for the Deaf. When she was a student, her