

I recall that many years ago Horav Belsky ZT"L wanted to communicate with the Russia Jews who were arriving in America, to try to be mekarev them. However he could not speak Russian and they knew no English or Yiddish. So he self-taught himself Russian by first learning the Russian Alphabet. Then somehow he acquired an old T'hillim that was printed with a Russian translation. He then figured out the words by reading the T'hillim in Russian and cross referencing the words in Hebrew. Which is quite an amazing way of learning a language.