

**ADVENTURES
IN LANGUAGE**



Science Behind Language Learning

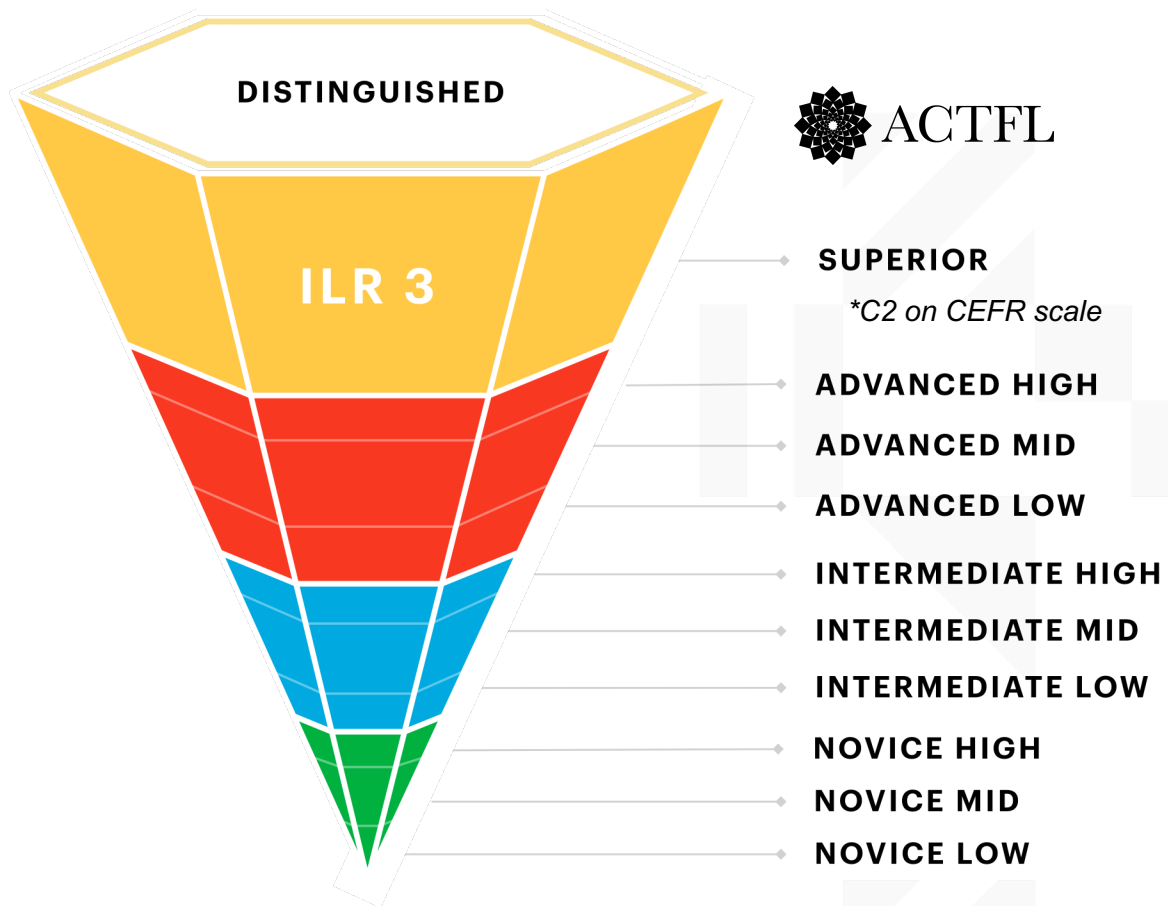
**Are some languages harder to learn
than others?**

What is...

The Foreign Service Institute?



FSI Language Categories



FSI Language Categories

Category I Languages

Category II Languages

Category III Languages

Category IV Languages

Easiest



Hardest



**NORTH
AMERICA**

ASIA

AFRICA

OCEANIA

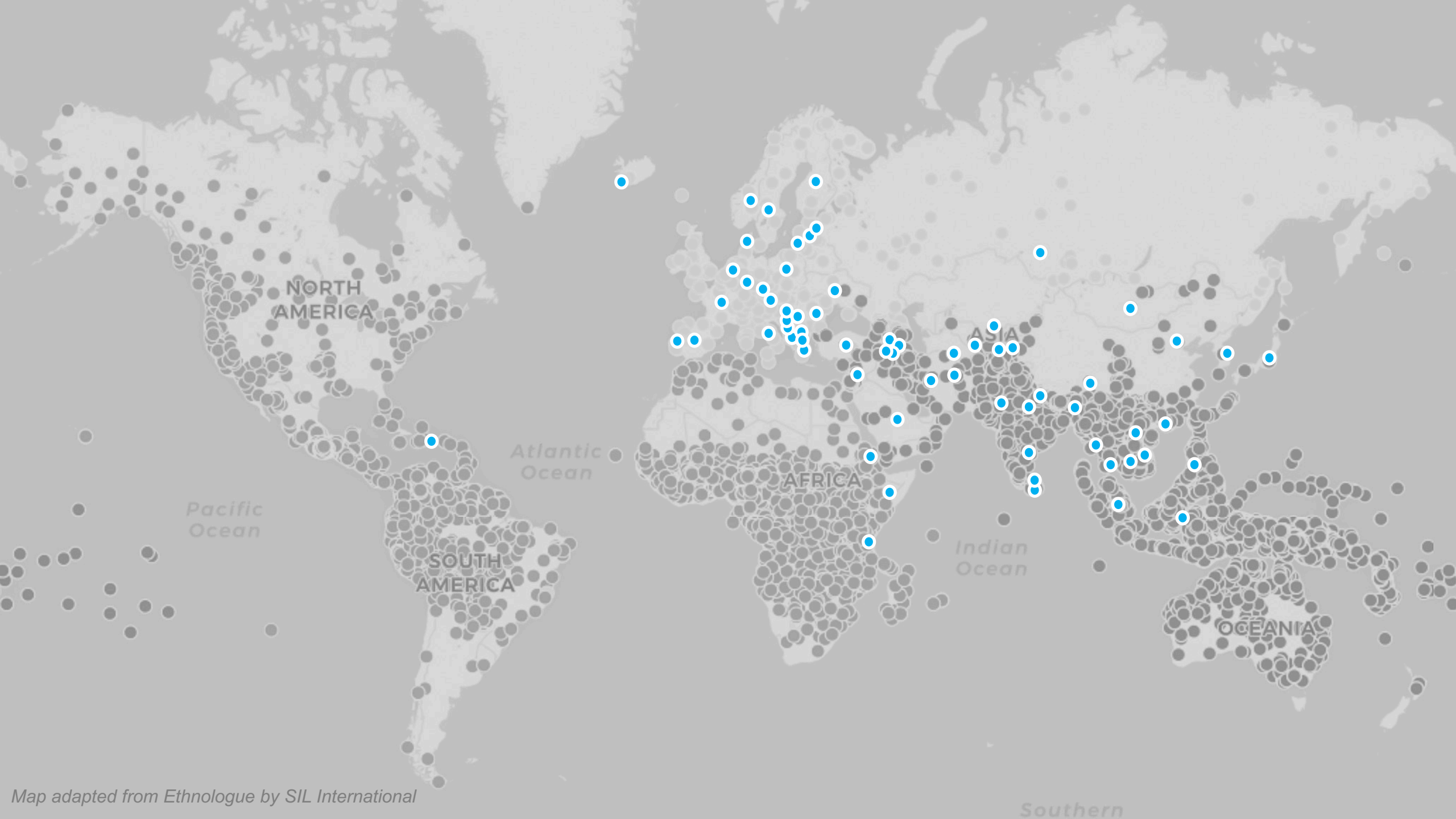
*Pacific
Ocean*

*Atlantic
Ocean*

*Indian
Ocean*

**SOUTH
AMERICA**

Southern



NORTH
AMERICA

Pacific
Ocean

SOUTH
AMERICA

Atlantic
Ocean

AFRICA

Indian
Ocean

ASIA

OCEANIA

Southern

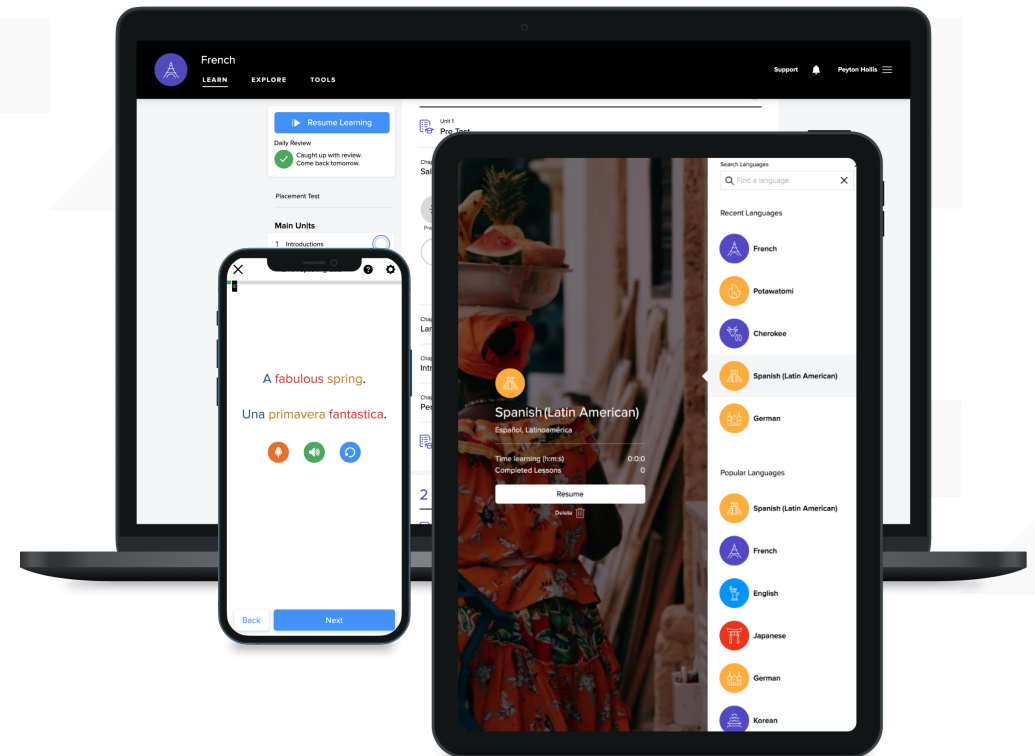
Category I Languages

Easy languages; most similar to English

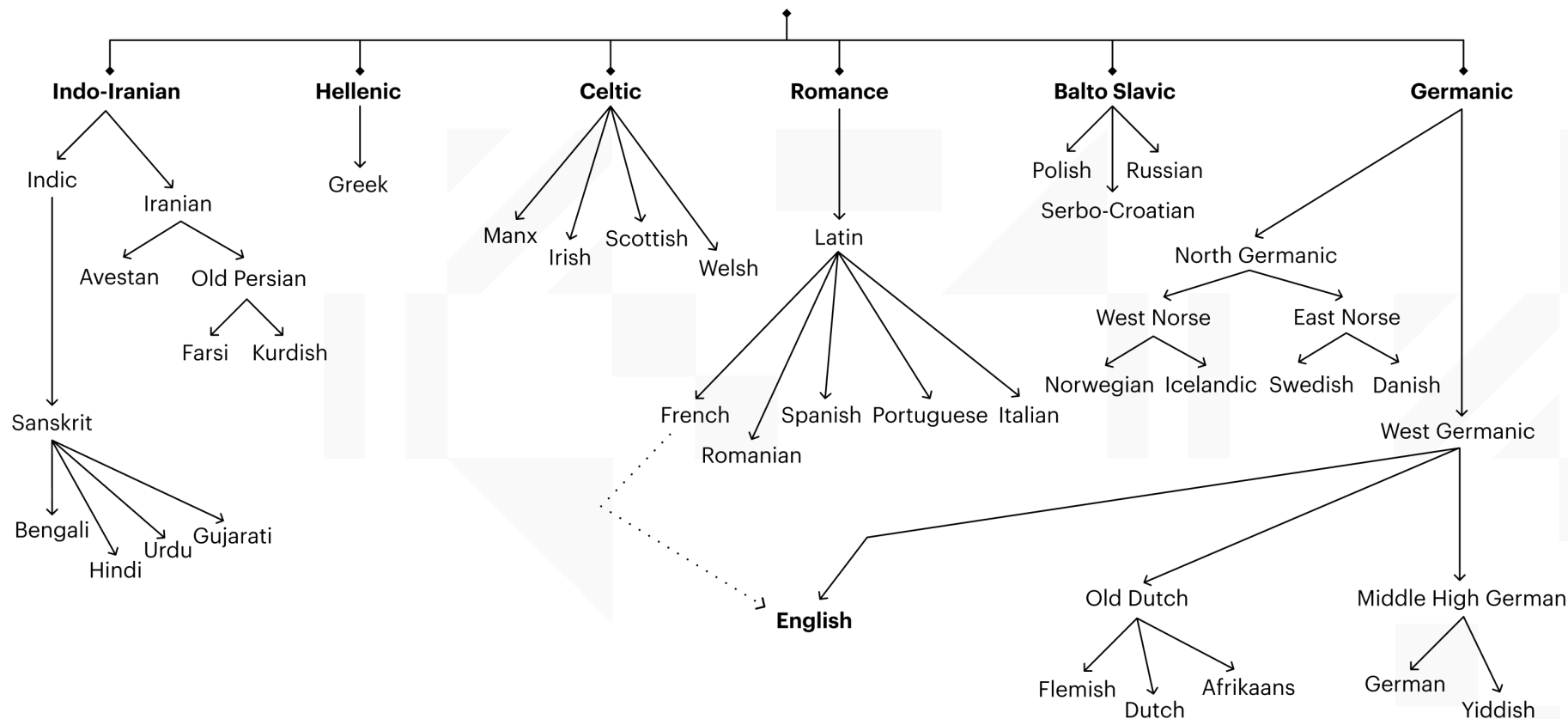
Category I		
24-30 weeks (600-750 class hours)*		
✓ Danish	✓ Dutch	✓ French
✓ Italian	✓ Norwegian	✓ Portuguese
✓ Romanian	✓ Spanish	✓ Swedish

✓ = COURSES AVAILABLE ON MANGO

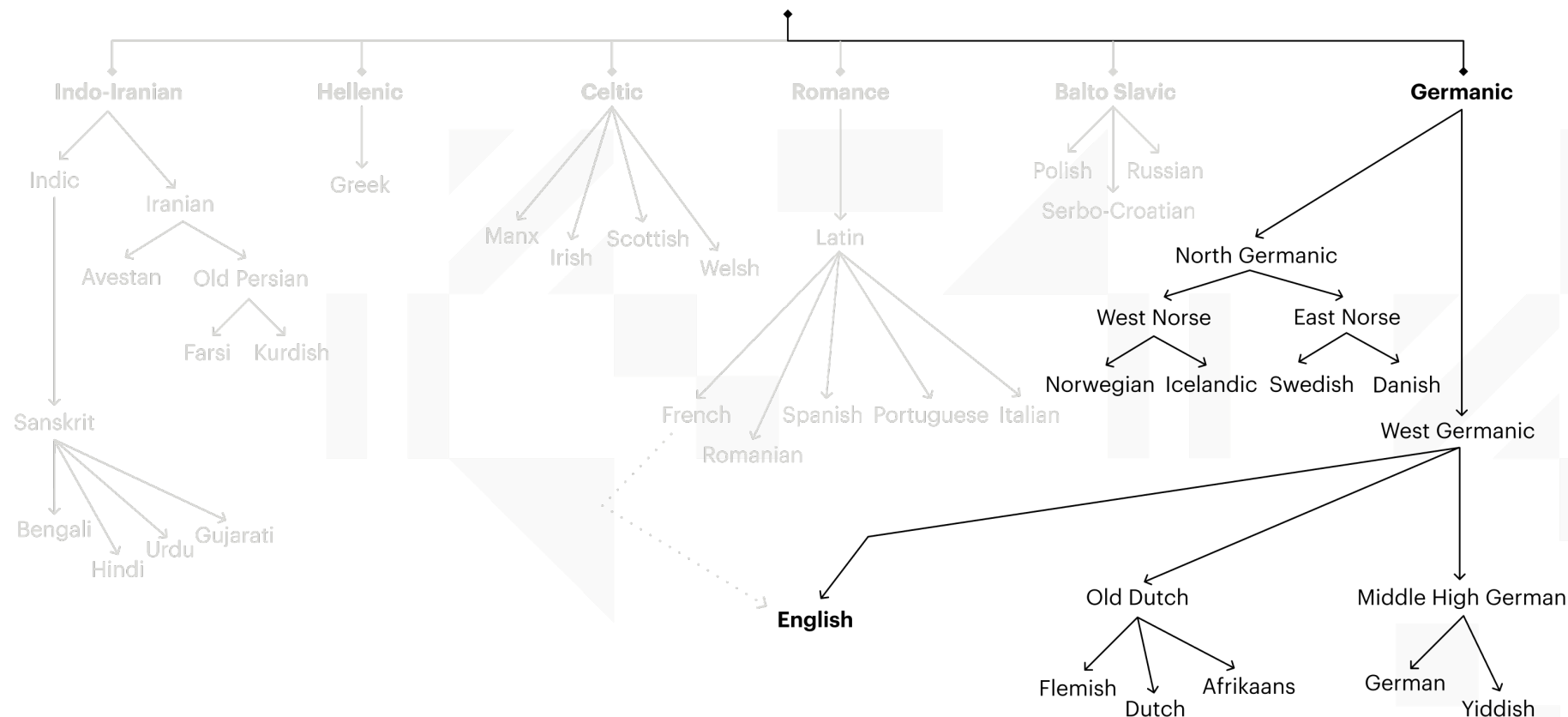
**based on intensive language courses, e.g., 5 hours per day, Monday - Friday*



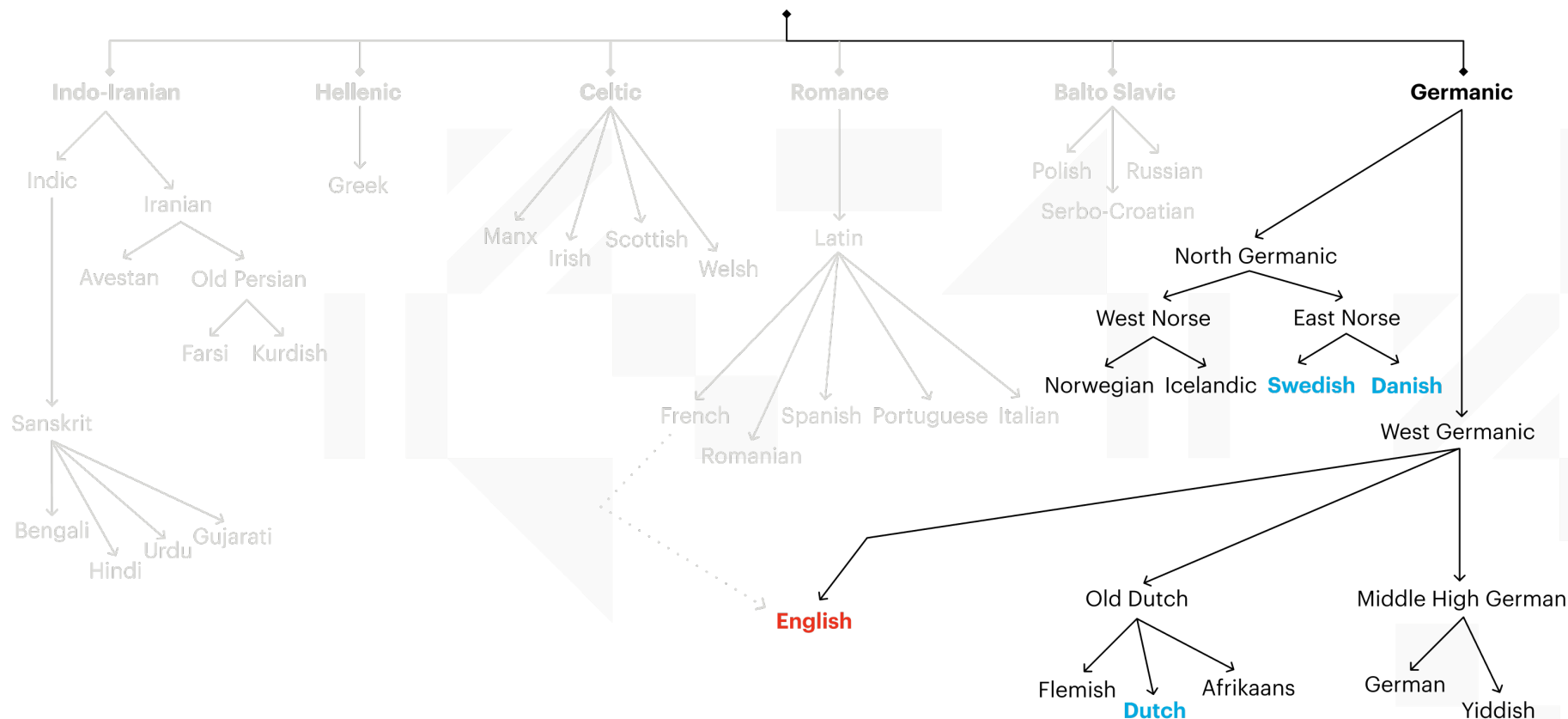
Proto-Indo-European



Proto-Indo-European



Proto-Indo-European



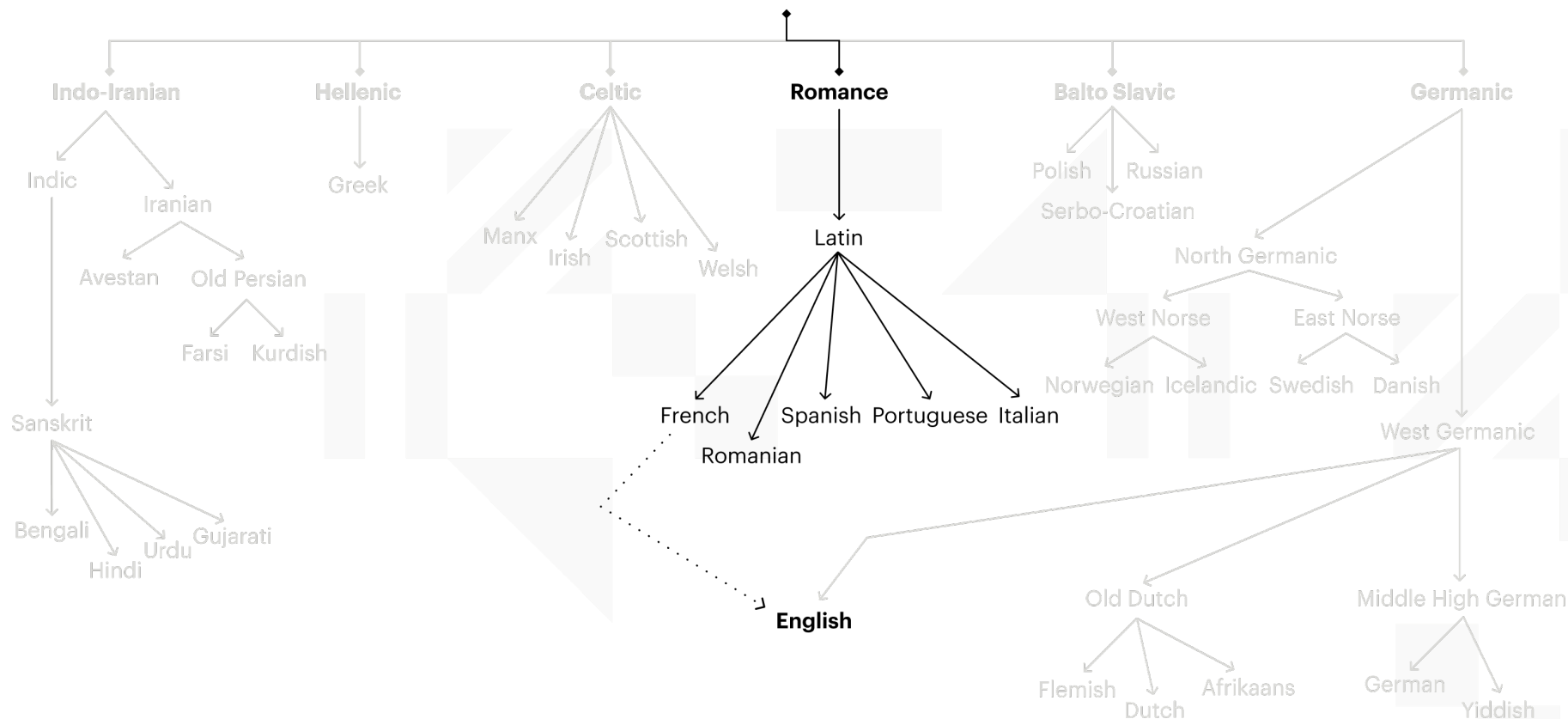
Category I Languages

Dutch: Het is niet warm in de winter.
It is not warm in the winter.

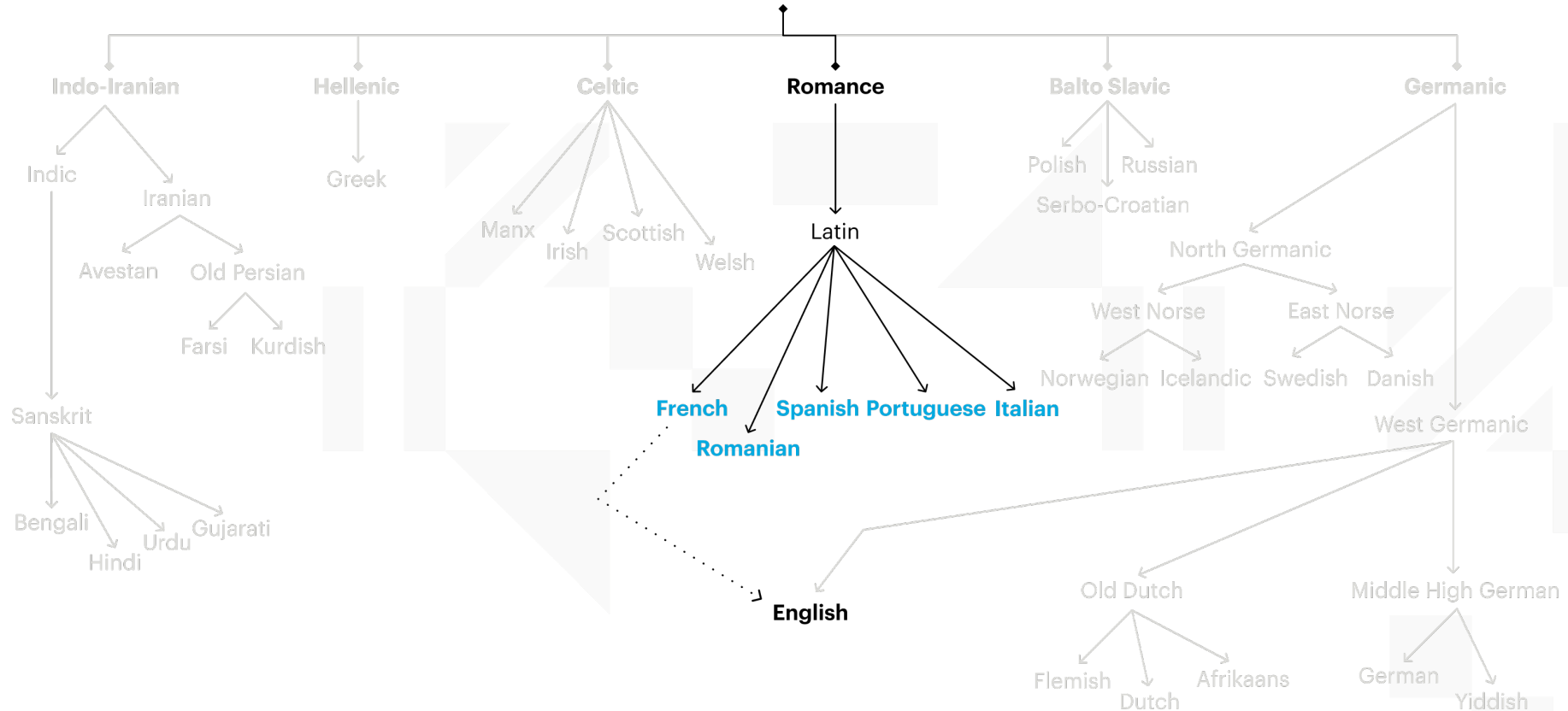
Swedish: Det där är min syster, Anki.
That's my sister, Anki.



Proto-Indo-European



Proto-Indo-European



Category I Languages

Family

Spanish familia

Italian famiglia










French famille

Portuguese família

Romanian familie



Category I Languages

Category I		
24-30 weeks (600-750 class hours)*		
 Danish	 Dutch	 French
 Italian	 Norwegian	 Portuguese
 Romanian	 Spanish	 Swedish

 — **30 weeks**
 — **24 weeks**

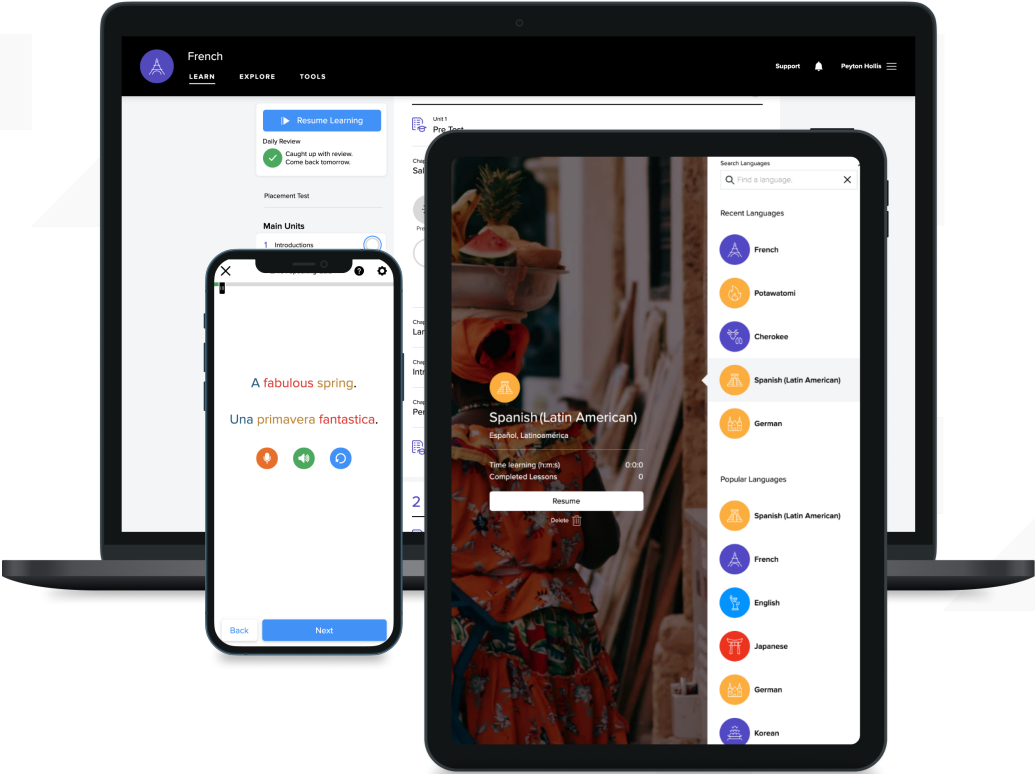


Category II Languages

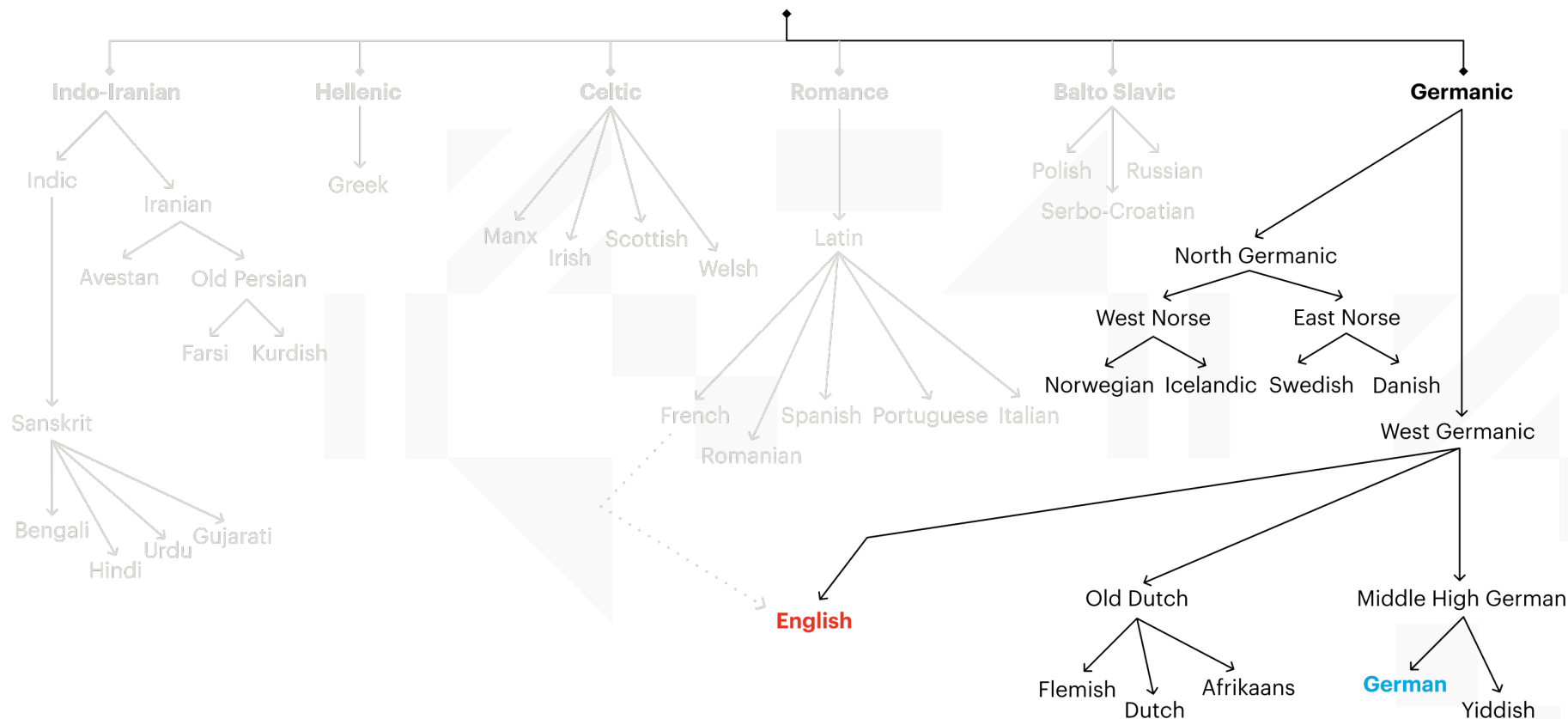
Somewhat easy languages

Category II					
36 weeks (900 class hours)					
✓ German	✓ Haitian Creole	✓ Indonesian			
✓ Malay		✓ Swahili			

✓ = COURSES AVAILABLE ON MANGO



Proto-Indo-European



Category II Languages

German: **Hier ist mein Vater.**
Here is my father.



German Morphology

	Masculine		Feminine		Neuter		Plural			
Nominative	der	der Mann	die	die Frau	das	das Mädchen	die	die Männer	die Frauen	die Mädchen
Genitive	des	des Mann	der	der Frau	des	des Mädchens	der	der Männer	der Frauen	der Mädchen
Dative	dem	dem Mann	der	der Frau	dem	dem Mädchen	den	den Männern	den Frauen	den Mädchen
Accusative	den	den Mann es	die	die Frau	das	die Mädchen	die	die Männer	die Frauen	die Mädchen

Die Mutter gibt dem Bruder des Mädchens das Buch.

the mother-NOM gives the brother-DAT the girl-GEN the book-ACC

The mother gives the book to the girl's brother.

German Morphology

	Masculine		Feminine		Neuter		Plural			
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Die Mutter gibt dem Bruder des Mädchens das Buch.

nominative

dative

genitive

accusative

the mother-NOM

gives

the brother-DAT

the girl-GEN

the book-ACC

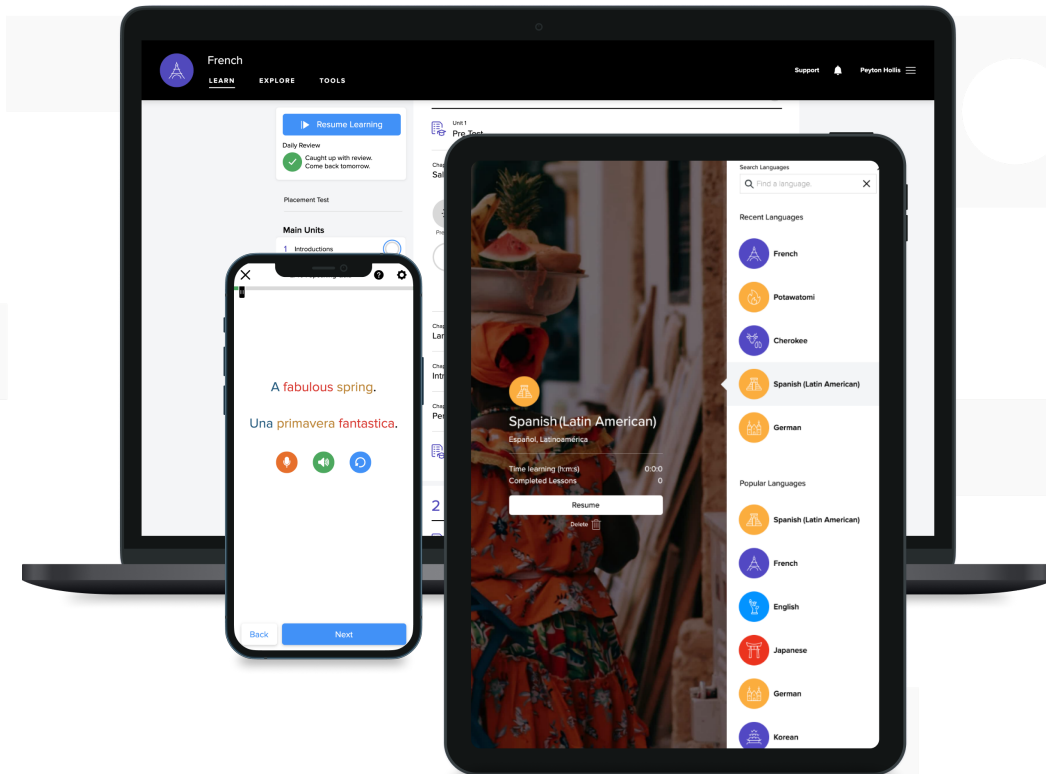
The mother gives the book to the girl's brother.

Category III Languages

Hard languages; “languages with significant linguistic and/or cultural differences from English”

Category III			
44 weeks (1100 class hours)			
Albanian	Amharic	✓ Armenian	✓ Azerbaijani
✓ Bengali	Bulgarian	Burmese	✓ Czech
✓ Dari	Estonian	✓ Farsi	✓ Finnish
Georgian	✓ Greek	✓ Hebrew	✓ Hindi
✓ Hungarian	✓ Icelandic	✓ Kazakh	Khmer
Kurdish	Kyrgyz	Lao	Latvian
Lithuanian	Macedonian	Mongolian	Nepali
✓ Polish	✓ Russian	✓ Serbo-Croatian	Sinhala
✓ Slovak	Slovenian	Somali	✓ Tagalog
Tajiki	✓ Tamil	✓ Telugu	✓ Thai
Tibetan	✓ Turkish	Turkmen	✓ Ukrainian
✓ Urdu	✓ Uzbek	✓ Vietnamese	

✓ = COURSES AVAILABLE ON MANGO



Category III Languages



Bengali

আমি ম্যাংগো ল্যাংগুয়েজ নামের একটা খুব ভালো ওয়েবসাইট
ব্যবহার করে বাংলা শিখছি



Greek

Μαθαίνω ελληνικά στο Ίντερνετ με το Μάνγκο.



Russian

Я говорю и понимаю по-русски.
Я учу русский по курсу Манго.

Category III Languages

Semantic Root

Related to the concept of writing

כ.ת.ב

כְּתִיבָה

“writing”

כָּתַב

“he wrote”

הִכְתִּיב

“to dictate (a letter)”

Case in Hungarian



Case	Ending	Example Word		Example Sentence	
Nominative	(unmarked)	ház	house	Ott egy ház.	There is a house.
Accusative	-t/-at/-ot/-et/-öt	házat		Vettünk egy házat.	We bought a house.
Dative	-nak/-nek	háznak		Péternek adtam a tollam.	I gave my pen to Peter.
Genitive	-nak/-nek a/az	háznak a		A háznak az ajtaja kék.	The door of the house is blue.
Instrumental-comitative	-val/-vel	házzal		Péterrel mentem autóval.	I went by car with Peter.
Causal-final	-ért	háért		Mennyit fizettél a házért?	How much did you pay for the house?
Translative	-vá/-vé	házzá		Házzá alakult a régi üzlet.	The old shop was turned into a house.
Terminative	-ig	házig		Négy óráig a házig ért.	She got to the house in four hours.
Essive-formal	-ként	házként		Állatként viselkedett.	He behaved like an animal.
Essive-modal	-ul/-ül	kutyául	dog	Kutyául érzem magam.	I feel like a dog. (I feel ill.)
Inessive	-ban/-ben	házban		Senki sincs a házban.	There's nobody in the house.
Superessive	-n/-on/-en/-ön	házon		Új kémény van a házon.	There's a new chimney on the house.
Adessive	-nál/-nél	háznál		Az autó a háznál parkol.	The car is parked at the house.
Illative	-ba/-be	házba		Senkit ne engedj a házba.	Don't let anyone into the house.
Sublative	-ra/-re	házra		Egy madár repült a házra.	A bird flew onto the house.
Allative	-hoz/-hez/-höz	házhoz		Odamentünk a házhoz.	We went (right) to the house.
Ablative	-tól/től	Pétertől	Peter (name)	Kaptam egy tollat Pétertől.	I've got a pen from Peter.
Elative	-ból/-ből	házból		Egy lány jött ki a házból.	A girl came (from/) out of the house.
Delative	-ról/-ről	házzól		A fiáról beszél, aki leesett a tetőről.	He is talking about his son, who fell (down from/) off the roof.
Formal	-képp(en)/-ként	masképpen	other	En másképpen csinálnám.	I would do it the other way around (differently).
Temporal	-kor	hétkor	seven	Hétkor szoktam kelni.	I usually get up at seven.
Sociative	-stul/stül/stól/stől	kertestül	garden	Vettünk egy házat kertestül.	We bought a house with a garden.




Table adapted from
dailymagyar.wordpress.com

Thai Classifiers

ตัว
dtua

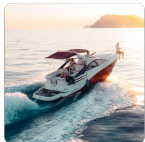

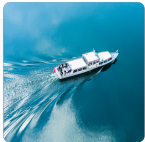
Clothing, animals, letters, numbers, chairs, tables





ลำ
lam

boats, planes

ผืน
phun

piece of cloth (scarves, towels, bed sheets)





คัน
khan

cars and vehicles except boats or planes

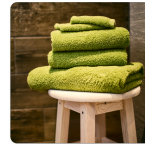




Thai Classifiers

ผืน
phun

piece of cloth (scarves, towels, bed sheets)



How many scarves do you want?

เอาผ้าพันคอกี่ผืน?

Tonal Languages

มา — maa1 — mid tone — “to come”

ม้า — maa3 — high tone — “horse”

หมา — maa4 — rising tone — “dog”



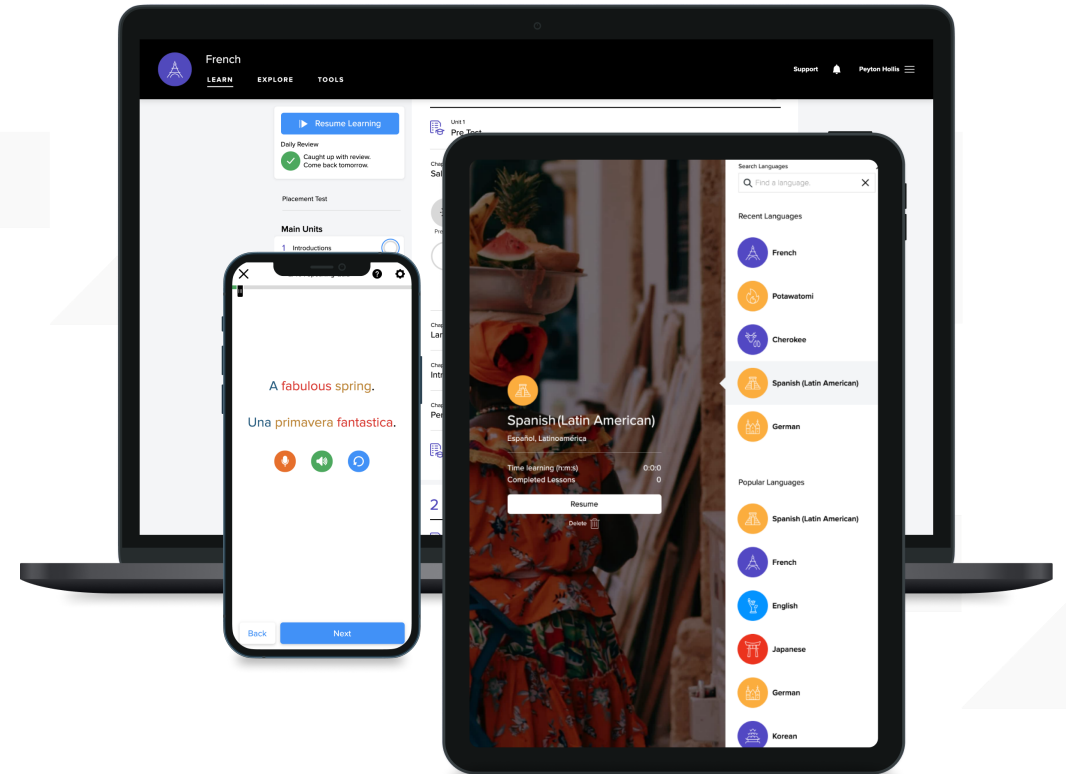
Category IV Languages

Super hard languages

“exceptionally difficult for native English speakers”

Category IV		
88 weeks (2200 class hours)		
✓ Arabic	✓ Chinese – Cantonese	✓ Chinese – Mandarin
✓ Japanese		✓ Korean

✓ = COURSES AVAILABLE ON MANGO



Category IV Languages

عَرَبِي



Arabic

にほんご



Japanese

한국어



Korean

廣東話



Cantonese

普通话



Mandarin





Japanese Writing System

ルールを守って、美しい町を保ちましょう。

Kanji

ルールを守って、美しい町を保ちましょう。

Katakana

ルールを守って、美しい町を保ちましょう。

Hiragana

ルールを守って、美しい町を保ちましょう。

Korean Writing System

지금 한글을 배우고 있어요.

Korean Writing System

지금 **한글**을 배우고 있어요.

Hangul – “the Korean alphabet”

ㅎ – h
+
ㅏ – a
+
ㄴ – n

한
Han

ㄱ – g
+
ㅡ – eu
+
ㄹ – l

글
Geul

한글
Hang(e)ul

Korean Pronunciation

딸

/t̚al/

daughter

달

/tal/

moon

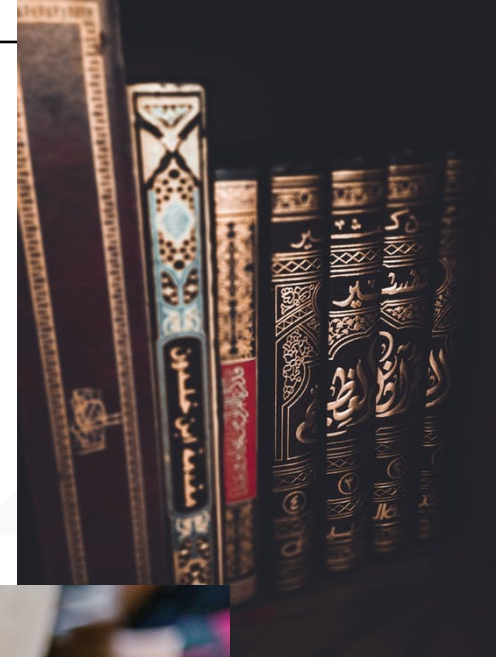
마스크

/t^hal/*mask*



Arabic

أَدِيْهِ صَارْكَ عَم تَتْعَلِّم عَرَبِي؟



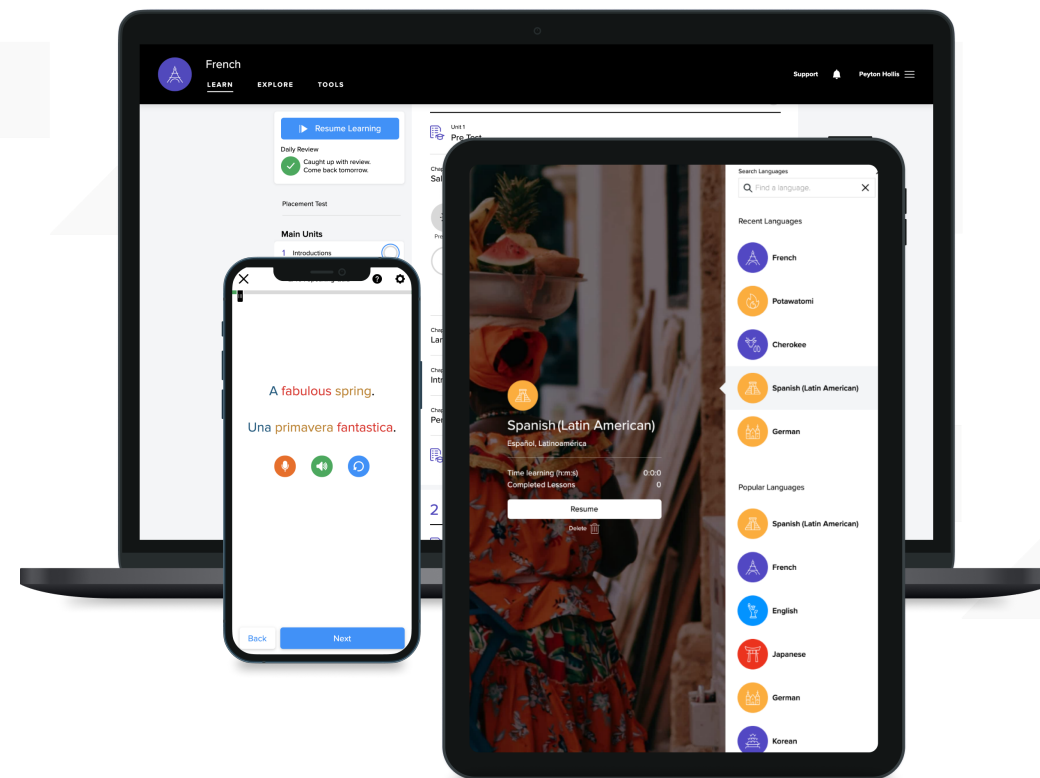
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Super hard languages










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

















 = COURSES AVAILABLE ON MANGO

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MANGO

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