Enhancing Learners' Professional Competence via Duolingo Classroom

Professional Competencies in Language Learning
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University of Nottingham

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Outline

* IWLP in Coventry
* What is Duolingo?
* What is Duolingo classroom?
* What we did and why we did it.
* What were the findings.
* Future research.

The Coventry context: what is the Add+vantage Scheme?

❖ Designed to address Coventry University's shortcomings under HEFCE's Employability Performance Indicator

* Full Time UG students on participating degree courses (12,000 students)

* Academically **accredited** and **mandatory** part of degree courses (10 credits)

* Can count towards degree classification (Levels 2 and 3)

* Students study **one** module each year

Unique Features

* Dedicated timetable slots organised centrally across the University

* Multi-level entry

* Mapped to CEFR From A1 to B1
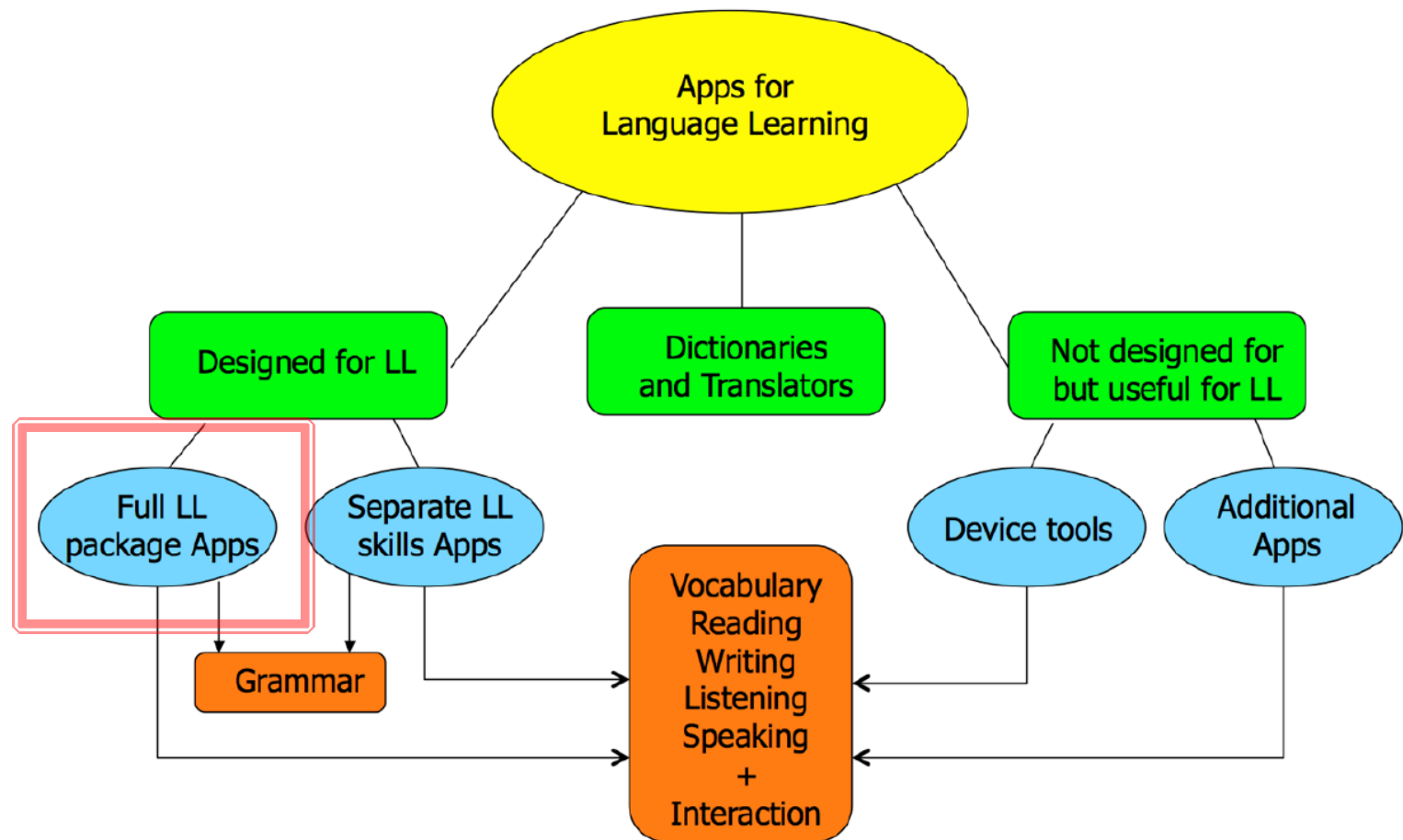
* Centrally administered

Figure 1: Taxonomy of apps for language learning.

Bring the world's most popular language learning platform to your classroom.
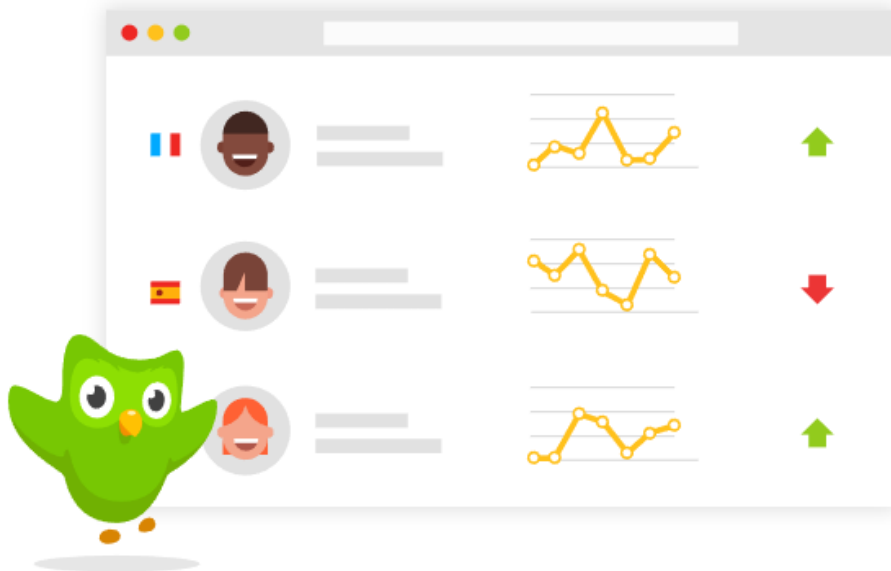
Get Started   Need Help?

You can now track progress on Duolingo!

Many teachers and even entire governments around the world already view Duolingo as the perfect blended learning companion for their classrooms. Duolingo lessons give each student personalized feedback and practice, preparing them to get the most out of classroom instruction.

Now teachers can track all their students in one place through our brand new dashboard.

Gamification poured into every lesson.

Read, Listen, Speak

Each lesson includes a variety of speaking, listening, translation, and multiple choice challenges.

In-Lesson Grading

Instantly see which answers you get correct. When you miss a challenge, we'll quickly show you how to improve.

Streak Count

Duolingo motivates you to stay on track by recording how many days in a row you spend learning a language.

Hearts

Hearts keep your lessons alive! You lose them when you answer incorrectly. When you're out of hearts, start over and try again.

16/07/2018

Spanish

124M learners

French

72.6M learners

German

44.1M learners

Italian

28.6M learners

English

22.0M learners

Portuguese

11.8M learners

Russian

8.10M learners

Japanese

6.94M learners

Dutch

5.51M learners

Swedish

5.18M learners

Irish

4.40M learners

Turkish

4.24M learners

Teske (2017)

Translate this text

El hombre es británico. > The woman is British

The incorrect part of the user's output is underlined and replaced with the correct form.

✖ You used the wrong word.
   • The man is British.
   • The man is a Briton.

Report a Problem   Discuss sentence (34)

Continue

Users can visit an asynchronous chat board where other users post questions and answers about each sentence/question throughout the activities.

Teske (2017)[10]

German words learned

192 Words

Word	Part of speech	Last practiced ▼	Strength
isst	Verb	1 month ago	
essen	Verb	1 month ago	
hat	Verb	1 month ago	
wir	Pronoun	1 month ago	
das	Determiner	1 month ago	
er	Pronoun	1 month ago	
und	Conjunction	1 month ago	
Reis	Noun	1 month ago	
Salz	Noun	1 month ago	
Nudeln	Noun	1 month ago	
Öl	Noun	1 month ago	

Spaced repetition

Duolingo's algorithms figure out when you should practice words to get them into your long-term memory.

- Still strong
- Pretty good
- Time to practice
- Overdue

Background

* Duolingo 27 languages via 69 courses.
* 3,500 students taking our IWLP (Add+vantage).
* Two in-class assessments.
* Voluntary arrangement with tutors.
* Four European languages only: French, German, Italian, Spanish.

Question 2 0/3   Family 1 0/4

🔑 **Test out of 7 skills**

Acc. Prep. 0/1   Numbers 1 0/4

Food 2 0/5   Dat. Case 0/3   Money 0/2
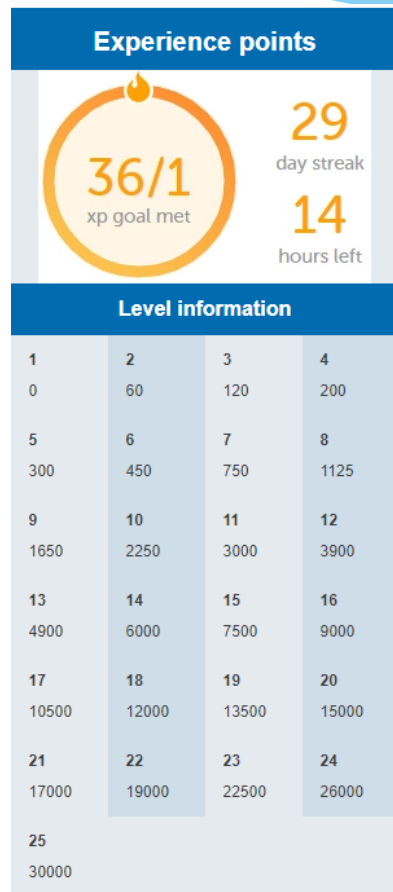
Dat. Pron. 0/4   Family 2 0/3

What are XP points?

* **"XP** (short for "experience **points**") are rewards for completing certain activities on **Duolingo**. There are various ways to earn **XP** such as completing lessons and practicing."

Source: Fandom

How do you earn them?

* Successfully completing a lesson or Untimed practice.

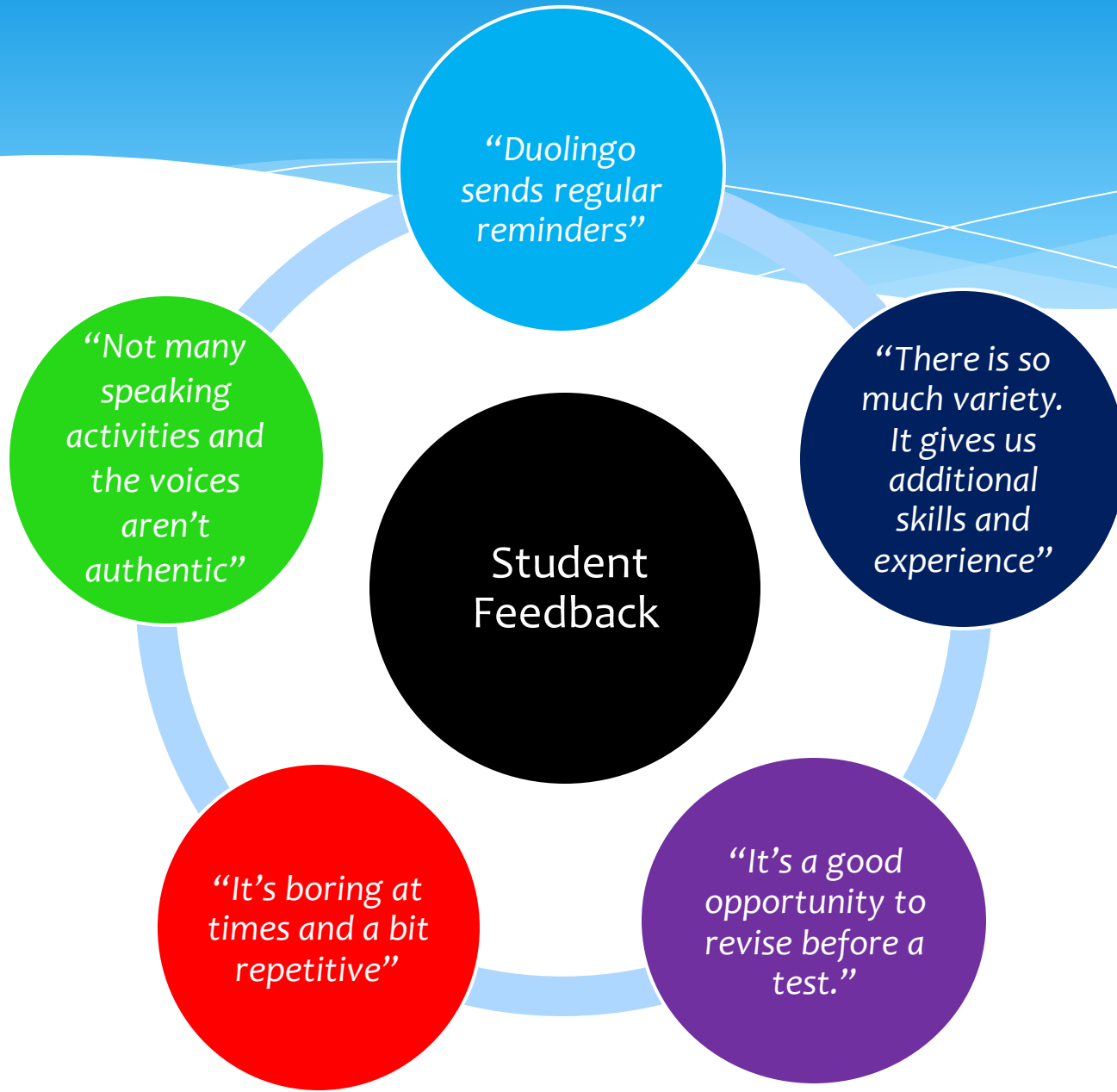* Completing a timed practice with at least one correct response. One point is awarded for each correct response.

How do you earn them (2)

Experience points	
36/1 xp goal met	**29** day streak
	14 hours left

Level information

1	2	3	4
0	60	120	200
5	6	7	8
300	450	750	1125
9	10	11	12
1650	2250	3000	3900
13	14	15	16
4900	6000	7500	9000
17	18	19	20
10500	12000	13500	15000
21	22	23	24
17000	19000	22500	26000
25			
30000			

* **On mobile only:**
* Achieving several correct answers in a row during a lesson (not during practice) can lead to getting up to 5 additional XP as a "Combo Bonus".
* Meeting the goal number of XP during a weekend challenge will result in an unspecified bonus of XP.

Student Feedback

"Duolingo sends regular reminders"

"There is so much variety. It gives us additional skills and experience"

"Not many speaking activities and the voices aren't authentic"

Student Feedback

"It's a good opportunity to revise before a test."

"It's boring at times and a bit repetitive"

Student Feedback

In my experience Duolingo was quite useful, but more so when it was used in conjunction with a class or with some prior knowledge of the language.

I had tried to use it for learning a language without any other assistance but I did not find it quite as useful then.

It was also very helpful to see where my strengths and weaknesses were with learning Italian.

When I used it for Italian, in combination with what I'd learned in class, I thought it was quite effective because it used active recall revision tactics, which I know help me learn best.

The fact that the things I had got wrong were tested again at the end of each "session"

Student Feedback

* Overall, I thought duolingo was a useful tool for me in studying Italian. I don't know if it helped me to improve my grade because I used it in combination with other tools, such as languagesonline, my notes from the class and the textbook. Some "sessions" in duolingo were obviously more relevant to the class content than others, so I don't know if there was a correlation between my duolingo use and my marks."

free
1 teacher, unlimited students

- ✔ Assign work and track completion
- ✔ Group students into classes
- Ad-free Duolingo experience
- Customer support Mon – Fri

YOUR CURRENT PLAN

schools **PRO**
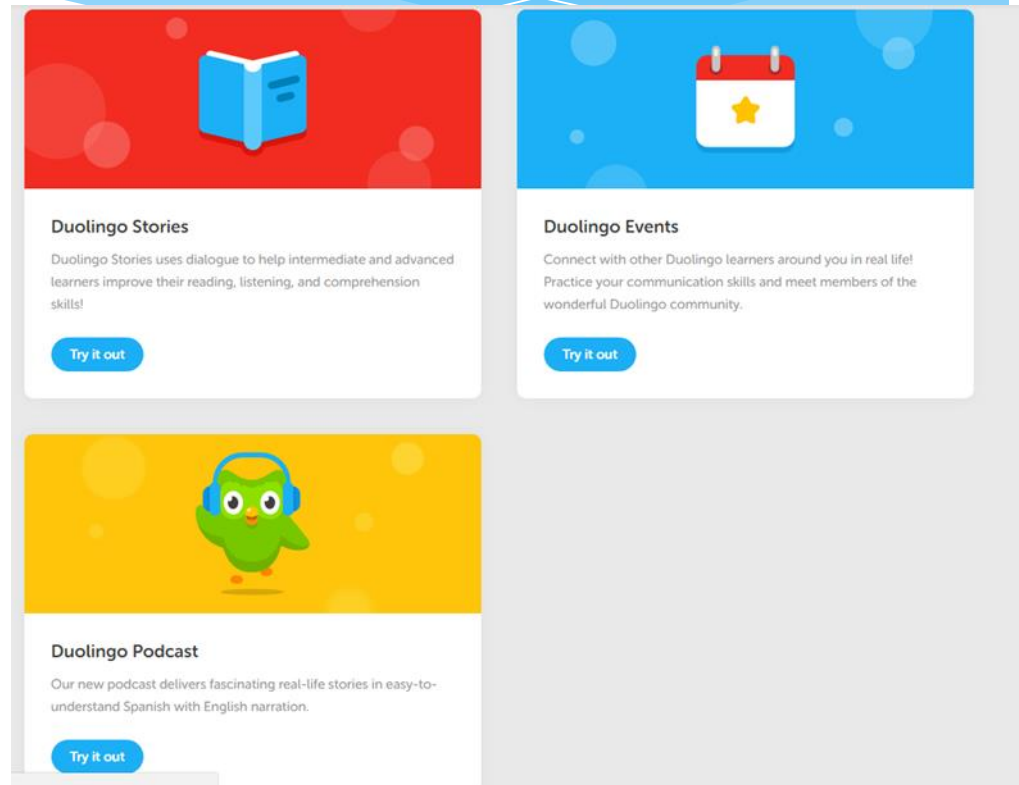1 teacher, unlimited students

- ✔ Assign work and track completion
- ✔ Group students into classes
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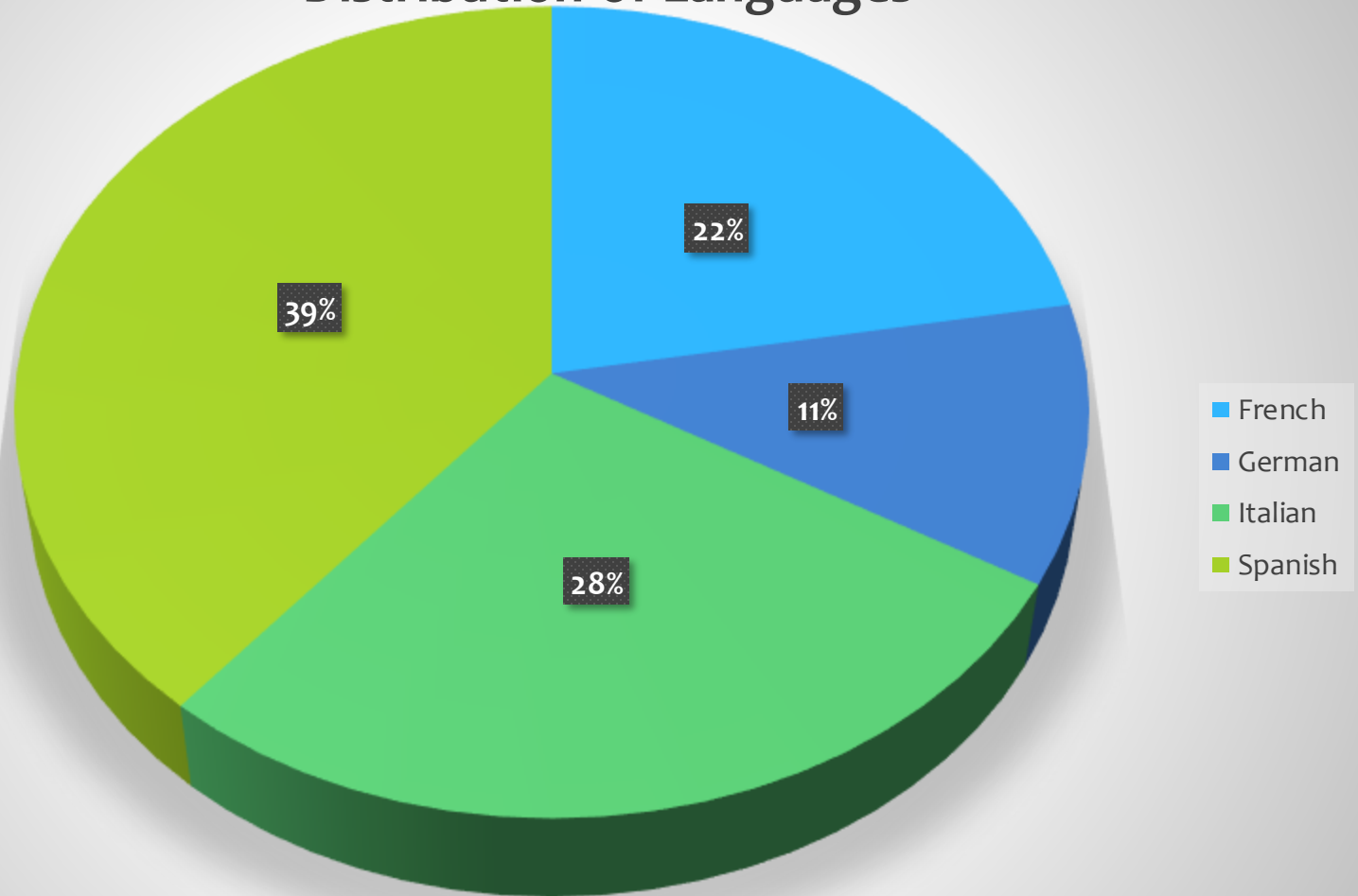- ✔ Customer support Mon – Fri

PAY $9.99/MO

16/07/2018

Key Features and new developments

Duolingo
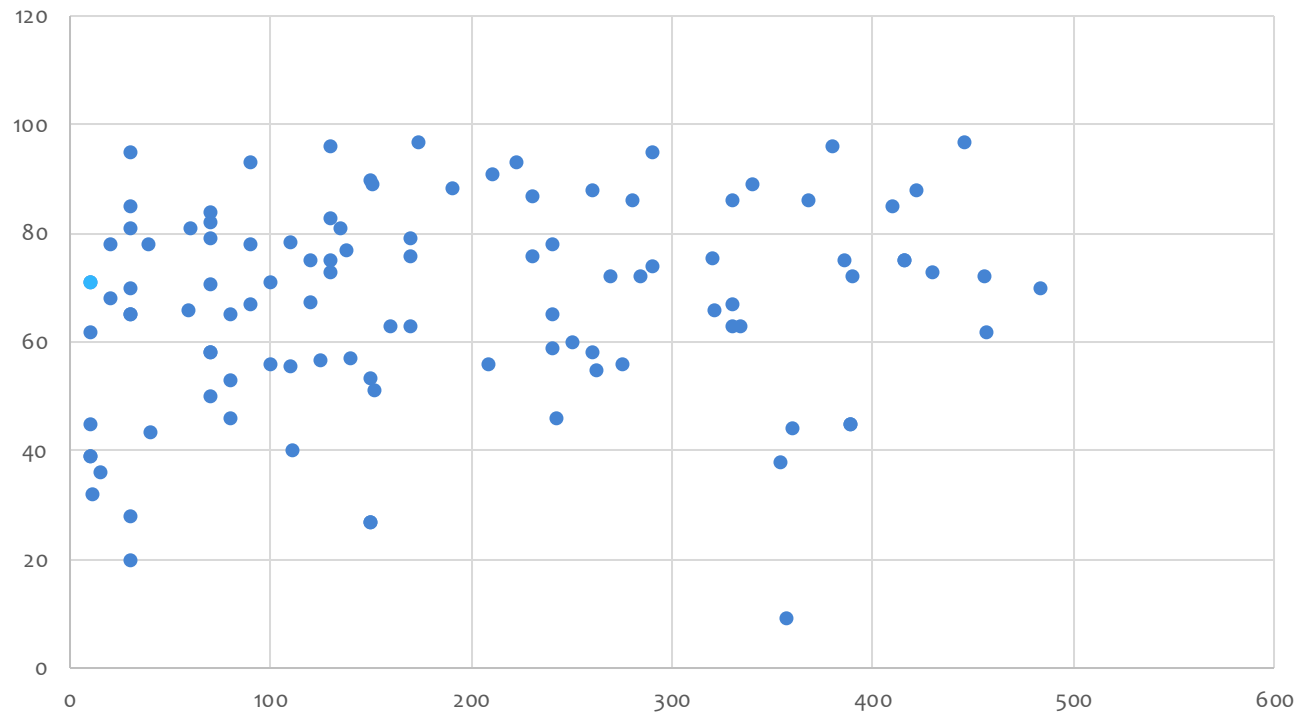
* Free
* Extensive tutor tools (Duolingo for Schools classroom)
* Extensive gamification
* Challenges and badges
* Speaking recognition poor
* Online community
* Listening, speaking, vocabulary acquisition.
* Richer feedback including discussion forums

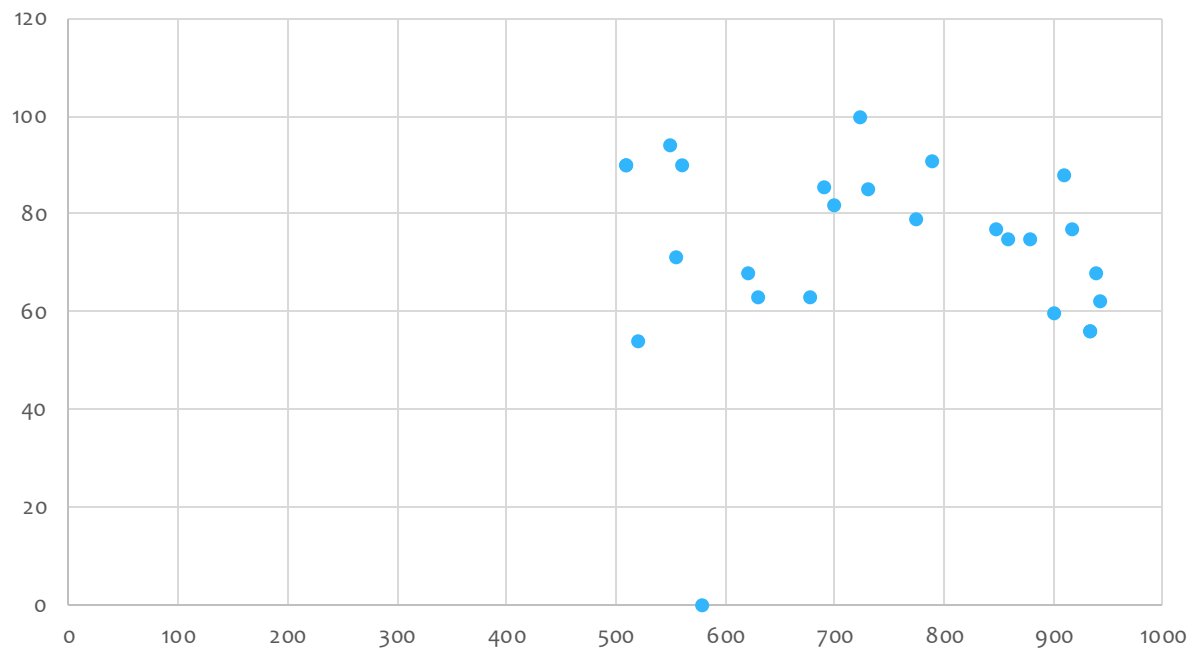**Duolingo Stories**

Duolingo Stories uses dialogue to help intermediate and advanced learners improve their reading, listening, and comprehension skills!

Try it out

Duolingo Events

Connect with other Duolingo learners around you in real life! Practice your communication skills and meet members of the wonderful Duolingo community.

Try it out

Duolingo Podcast

Our new podcast delivers fascinating real-life stories in easy-to-understand Spanish with English narration.

Try it out

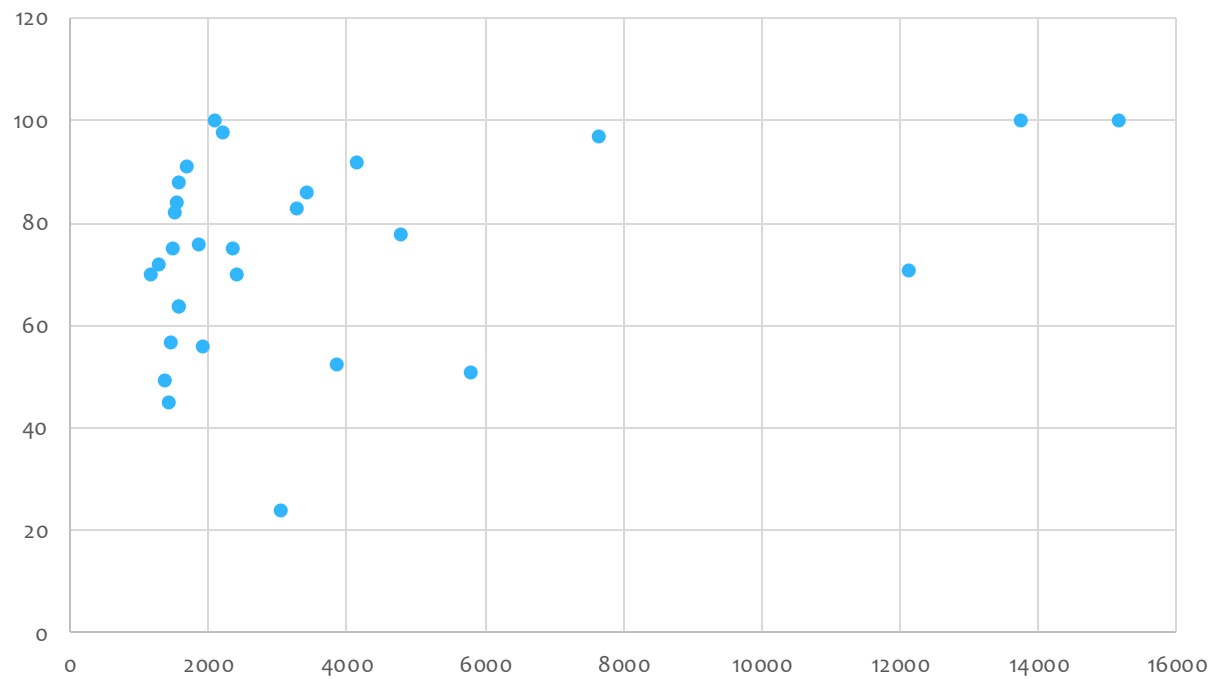Distribution of Languages

0-500 XP cut off point correlation

500- 999 XP cut off point correlation

1000 cut off point correlation

Variables

* Harder working students more likely to do homework anyway.

* We don't know specifically what they've studied on Duolingo due to autonomous approach.

* Some tutors may have motivated students more than others. 11 tutors took part in total.

* The focus was on XP points collected rather than specific tasks/exercises.

Future Directions

* A more structured and rigorous approach for staff and students.

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