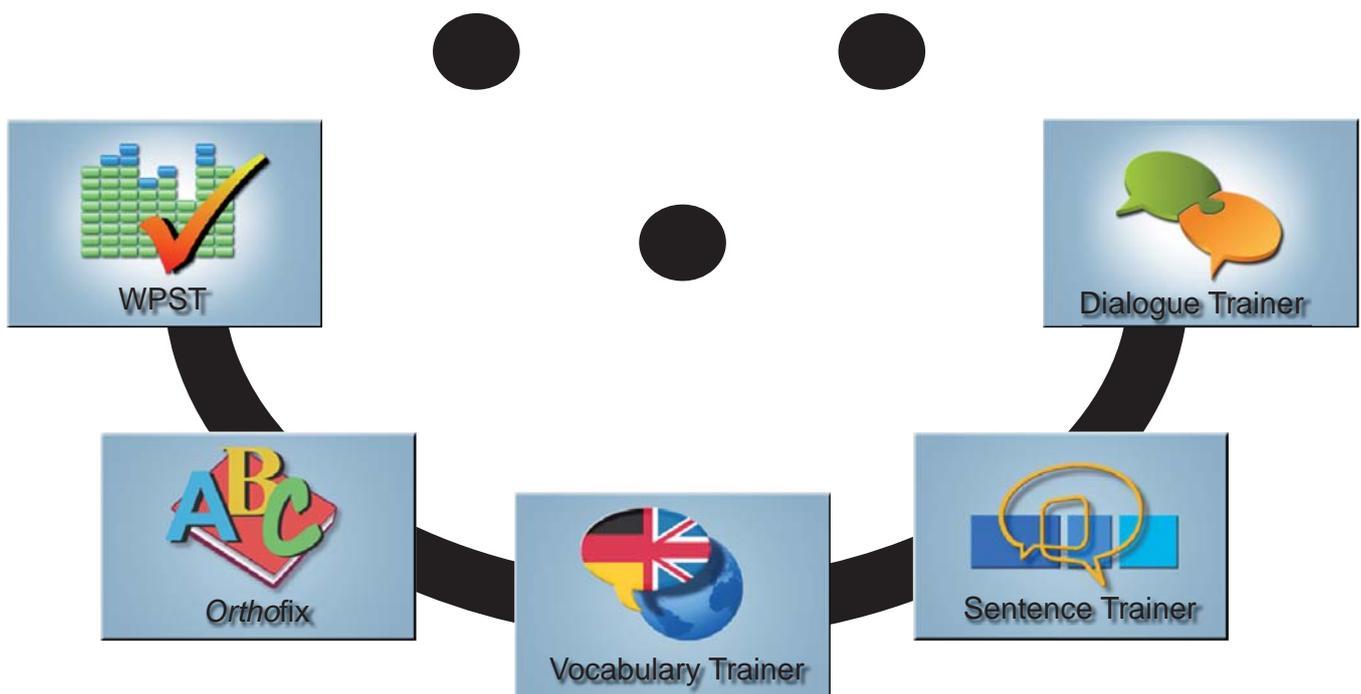




FLIC

Foreign Language Acquisition with the Instinct of a Child



An autodidactic model for second language acquisition

- ⇒ ***New ways of learning a language***
- ⇒ ***Applicable without prior knowledge of the foreign language***
- ⇒ ***Learning at one's own pace***
- ⇒ ***Based on international research results (www.flic-project.org)***
- ⇒ ***A combination of proven new ways of learning***
- ⇒ ***Brain callisthenics as byproduct ...***

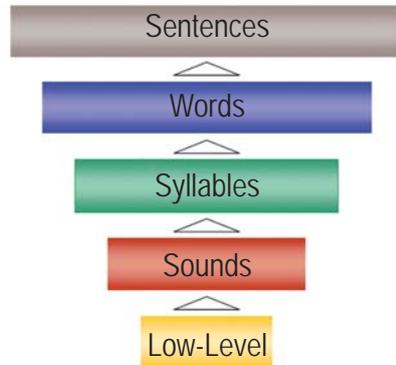


What is the FLIC method based upon?

Between 2003 and 2006 the EU spent 1.3 Million Euros testing the application of a new autodidactic model for foreign language acquisition. In cooperation with several European Universities, MediTECH Electronic GmbH (Ltd.) proved this model to be superior to conventional methods of foreign language learning. The following marketable FLIC method has been developed from the results of this EU study.

1.1. Levels of language proficiency

The following five level model of language proficiency based on Prof. M. Ptok provides the framework for the FLIC method:



Based on the four lower levels, speaking in synchrony with a model voice helps to approximate the prosody of a native speaker.

Phonemes develop into words whose meaning and articulation can be acquired very effectively (because of its implicitly) by using the FLIC method.

At this level phonemes are perceived and produced using all the skills that are obtained at the lower levels.

Still below the level of the language the relevant Low Level Functions are used to identify sounds, phonemes and syllables.

Far below the actual level of language its basic conditions such as time and frequency resolution are tested and trained as necessary.

1 Ptok-M: „Auditory processing and perception deficits and dyslexia“, Hessian Medical Journal 2/2000, p. 52-54 (German publication)

2.1. What makes FLIC different from other methods?

Conventional methods of foreign language acquisition take an approach from the word or sentence level. The sound level is only implicated if and when a specific sound / phoneme of the foreign language cannot properly be articulated by the learner. The standard approach in this case is to practice this phoneme repeatedly while wondering why even experienced politicians are unable to pronounce the English “r” or “th” properly. To improve the two lower levels is not considered. This is one particular strongpoint of the FLIC method.

Futhermore, most conventional methods follow the principle of explicit learning whereas FLIC mainly uses implicit learning process. Implicit learning means that:

... we learn without fully being aware of it.
... we often cannot describe such knowledge in depth.
... we can apply the obtained skills properly.
... we have automatized most of what we have learned.

That is the way you learn before you start school. A normal five-year-old correctly states: “It’s raining”, without explaining that the *present progressive* is made out of “be + verb + ing”. The child learns this some years later when grammar is introduced at school but applies it properly today. Using the FLIC method is learning implicitly. It also means to be more successful in the process.

3. What exactly do you train with the FLIC method?

3.1 Low-Level-Functions

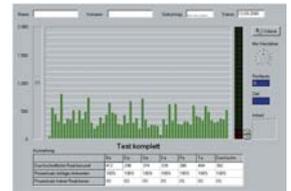
- ⇒ **Visual order threshold:**
Essential for proper time resolution of continuous visual stimuli.
- ⇒ **Auditory order threshold:**
Essential for proper time resolution of continuous auditory stimuli.
- ⇒ **Directional hearing:**
Essential for filtering useful sounds out of ambient noise.
- ⇒ **Sound discrimination:**
Essential for decoding vowels and speech melody.
- ⇒ **Auto motoric coordination:**
Essential for the indication of the coordination between the two brain hemispheres.
- ⇒ **Choice reaction time:**
Essential for prompt decisions between sound alternatives.
- ⇒ **Frequency pattern test:**
Essential for perceiving auditory impressions structured by frequency.
- ⇒ **Duration pattern test:**
Essential for perceiving auditory impressions structured by time.



When you start training you compare your scores in these eight functions with the existing norms. Using the Audio Trainer AT 3000 you smoothly train your low level capabilities until you reach or outperform your normdata.

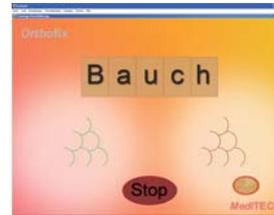
3.2 + 3.3 Sounds and syllables

Sound characteristics are decoded in the same parts of the brain as the Low-Level-Functions - the superior temporal areas of the left hemisphere. Since they have been improved in (3.1), the actual phoneme discrimination can be tested and trained immediately by using the **Wedemark Perception Selectivity Test (WPST)** software which trains the correct pronunciation of all the sounds of the foreign language.



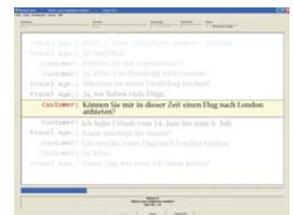
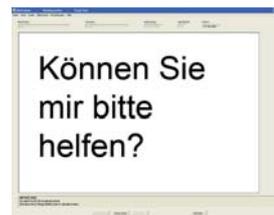
3.4 Words and vocabulary

On top of that **Orthofix** foreign language version smoothly teaches the correct spelling of up to 10,000 words in the brain's visual lexicon in a fascinating new way. The FLIC **Vocabulary Trainer** software presents new words uniquely combining auditory and visual information from foreign and native language; e.g. German-English and English-German.



3.5 Sentences

On the highest level of familiarity with a foreign language the **Sentence Trainer** and the **Dialogue Trainer** are used. That allows to obtain multiple sentences, phrases and dialogues in a play-like fashion by once again speaking in synchrony with a perfect model voice.



3.6 Audio playback



The eight Low-Level-Functions are trained simply by connecting the headphones to the **Audio-Trainer AT-3000**. All the other training steps require your computer. A special FLIC cable set is needed to connect your head set with the FLIC trainer. Now the hardware is ready.

Prior to training you need to install the FLIC software package on your computer. It includes WPST, *Orthofix*, Vocabulary Trainer and Sentence Trainer. Simply follow the installation routine given by CD. Afterwards you always start the FLIC-software with the FLIC starting mask.

4. How do you train using FLIC?

4.1 Low Level Training

The first six to eight weeks you practice using the **AT-3000** on a daily basis. It is recommended that you write down your initial scores and keep record of your training achievements. Try to get as close as possible to the scores of 20-year-olds in the process.

4.2 + 4.3 Sounds and syllables

You start the **WPST** software with the FLIC starting mask while wearing your headset. During your first session you test your ability to correctly repeat six syllables fast. Take note of your average reaction time: Values above 1,0 seconds strongly indicate a training opportunity which the **WPST** offers for all key syllables of the foreign language.

4.4 Words and vocabulary

The **Vocabulary Trainer** and **Orthofix** build up complete word pools (basic word pool: *Orthofix* > 9,900; Vocabulary Trainer > 1,350, extensible up to 10,000 words) in a playful way. One focus of the program is to teach clear inner visual images showing the structure of each new word. Whenever uncertain, the native speaker writes down two possible spellings of a word and "sees" right away which one is the correct one. The FLIC-learner establishes his new word pool in very much the same way.

4.5 Sentences

The **Sentence Trainer** teaches typical sentence structures using predefined sentence modules. Each theme consists of 40 sentences, the subjects being "In the restaurant", "Conversation", "Travelling", etc. Based on this typical situations are played with prepared dialogues with the **Dialogue Trainer**. The grammatical structures of the language are learned by once again repeatedly speaking in synchrony with a model voice. Playfully, the necessary capabilities to handle standard conversations are established hereby.

What equipment do you need for FLIC?

Below you will find the required hardware listed. For training with FLIC you'll need a computer. The requirements for this you'll find at www.pc.meditech.de. All necessary software for starting with FLIC is included in the FLIC I CD-ROM:

Hardware

Basic Hardware	Art.-No.	Price* excl. VAT
FLIC-Trainer	9026-Set	695.00 Euro
Headset	7977	225.00 Euro
Case	9054	98.00 Euro
Cable set	8893-Set	90.00 Euro

Advanced hardware		
Basic hardware	10070-Set-V2	1,098.00 Euro
Audio-Trainer AT-3000	9088-Set	250.00 Euro

Software

FLIC I (Software set - basic module)	6861-GB	370.00 Euro
includes: WPST, Orthofix, Vocabulary Trainer, Sentence Trainer, Dialogue Trainer		
FLIC II (Software set - extension module)	6861-GB	370.00 Euro
Additional material: vocabulary, themes für additional sentences and dialogues FLIC I is absolutely absolutely necessary if you want to use FLIC II		

FLIC packages

Product		
Basic hardware set	10070	1,098.00 Euro
Basic hardware and software set basic module	10071-GB	1,458.00 Euro
Advanced hardware set (incl. AT-3000)	10072	1,348.00 Euro
Advanced hardware and software set basic module (incl. AT-3000)	10073-GB	1,698.00 Euro

* Prices plus postage and packing.

Information about the studies:

www.flic-project.org

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