

Enhancing regional and cultural expertise with CL-150 Cohorts

You've probably heard about CL-150 Cohort lesson streams as a resource for language maintenance. But did you know the weekly lessons also help learners enhance regional and cultural expertise?

Foreign language proficiency, regional expertise, and cultural knowledge are enduring critical competencies for US Government language professionals, but all three require continuous effort to maintain and enhance. [CL-150 Cohorts](#) take advantage of the inherent overlap of these core competencies, targeting all three simultaneously in weekly lessons delivered right to your inbox.

What's a CL-150 Cohort lesson?

<https://vimeo.com/381700698>

How do Cohorts support regional and cultural expertise?

Authentic Sources

All lessons are based on authentic sources—newspaper articles, op eds, podcast episodes, TV commercials, etc.—made by native speakers for native speakers. Learners are exposed to events and topics from the same perspective as the local populace.

Sustainers aren't simply learning to read in the language at level, they are reading in the language to learn about the target region and culture.

The image shows a screenshot of a software interface for Arabic text presentation. At the top, there is a purple header with the text "Arabic • Text Presentation" and "0 % Complete". Below the header, there is a video player showing a man in a blue jacket speaking. To the left of the video, there is a sidebar with Arabic text. To the right, there is a larger text area with Arabic text. At the bottom, there is a progress bar and a "DONE" button.

This Levantine Arabic Cohort lesson is based on an Alghad TV interview with an

environmental activist who produced a short film to highlight waste found in the streets of Al-Bireh City in Palestine. The lesson text is a transcript of the interview, and a YouTube link is provided so learners can hear the original interview.

Current Language Usage






The authentic sources describe important events and changes throughout the region and reflect the latest language usage, including new expressions, acronyms, or slang, as well as domain-specific terms required to discuss emerging trends or major events.



A Mandarin Chinese Cohort lesson based on a news segment on the United States’ “shameless provocation”—sailing a warship through the Taiwan Strait for the ninth time in 2019. The lesson vocabulary covers very specific naval vocabulary, as well as Chinese idioms used in the article.

Relevant Domains

To maintain proficiency, each Cohort lesson is crafted very carefully to align to a particular ILR level. The same level of care goes into choosing sources that align to mission-relevant topics—all lessons cover domains that contribute to cultural and/or regional expertise, including politics, security, society, military, economy, etc.

 ILR 3, 12/30/19: Who Is the Winner of the US-China Phase One Trade Agreement? (Politics/YouTube)	LEARN + ⋮
 ILR 3, 12/23/19: The World's Largest Ice and Snow Festival - Harbin Ice-Snow World (Geography/hrbicesnow)	LEARN + ⋮
 ILR 3, 12/16/19: Feelings from Mountain and Water: Chinese Shan Shui Animation Masterpiece (Culture/sohu)	LEARN + ⋮
 ILR 3, 12/09/19: China Declares "Shameless Provocation!" When U.S. Warship Sails Through Taiwan Strait, Ninth This Year (Military/qiangwutang)	LEARN + ⋮
 ILR 3, 12/02/19: The Temperature of Sound (Culture/Zha Yilu)	LEARN + ⋮
 ILR 3, 11/25/19: How Does the Situation in Hong Kong End? (Politics /rfa)	LEARN + ⋮
 ILR 3, 11/18/19: Notice on Preventing Minors' Addiction to Online Games (Society/thepaper)	LEARN + ⋮

As you can see from the lesson names, in a six-week period, subscribers to this Cohort lesson stream received lessons covering a wide range of domains, including politics, geography, culture, military, and society.

With new lessons published every week in a range of languages, levels, and domains, CL-150 Cohorts provide streams of relevant learning materials that learners won't find in any textbook or online course.

If your organization or team is struggling to maintain language proficiency and continuously build regional and cultural expertise, let's talk about how CL-150 Cohorts can help: usg@transparent.com.