

50

FUN THINGS TO

LEARN

LEARNING DOESN'T HAVE TO FEEL BORING OR FORCED. FIND SOMETHING YOU LOVE TO MAKE IT EXCITING.

By Mindy Leavitt
Church Magazines

You don't always get to choose what you learn in school. Fractions, parts of speech, and the difference between cumulus and stratus clouds? Not everyone's going to find those topics totally captivating. But even if you don't love every class in school, you can still love learning. There are countless things to learn—some practical things that will save you from stress and some fun things that will save you from boredom.

Find something you're passionate about and you'll discover that being enthusiastic about learning comes naturally. Developing skills and hobbies will not only make you a more interesting, well-rounded person, but it will also boost the quality of your life through added abilities and interests. So learn on! To get you started, here's a list of 50 fun things to learn.

CULTURE

- 1 **Say common phrases in the five most commonly used languages in the world.**
- 2 **Write in fancy calligraphy.**
- 3 **Crochet or knit.** Scarves, mittens, elf hats—the possibilities are endless.
- 4 **Speak a second (or third!) language.** Parlez-vous français?
- 5 **Identify geography.** Be able to point out places like Tajikistan, Vanuatu, and Addis Ababa on a map.
- 6 **Learn more about the cultures of the countries you hope to visit one day.**



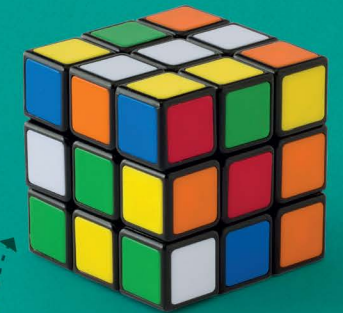
8 **Master origami.**

- 9 **Cook an authentic recipe from your favorite country or region.**
- 10 **Recite famous poems, passages, or speeches—historical or fictional.** Ideas to get you started: "Jabberwocky" or one of Shakespeare's soliloquies.
- 11 **Learn about five political leaders from outside your country.**

7 **Play an instrument.** The harmonica, ukulele, and bagpipes all count.

JUST FOR FUN

- 12 **Juggle.** Just don't practice with eggs.
- 13 **Make balloon animals.** Kids will love you.
- 14 **Whistle with your fingers** (helpful for sporting events and in large crowds).
- 15 **French braid your hair** for young women or **tie a bow tie** for young men.
- 17 **Write with your nondominant hand—legibly.**
- 18 **Paint.** Either the watercolor-on-canvas kind or the painting-your-whole-room kind—with your parents' permission.
- 19 **Draw portraits.** Or caricature drawings. Or just work on improving those stick figures.



20 **Solve a Rubik's cube.** Try to see if you can do it in a certain amount of time.

16 **Memorize the entire periodic table of elements.** Then send a friend a clever note.

Americium Am [243]	Uranium U 238.03	Selenium Se 78.96	[a]	Neodymium Nd 144.24	Arsenic As 74.92	[t]	Oxygen O 16.00	Uranium U 238.03	Neodymium Nd 144.24	Carbon C 12.01	Lanthanum La 138.91	Sulfur S 32.07	Samarium Sm 150.36	Astatine At [210]	Einsteinium Es [252]
Tungsten W 183.84	Iodine I 126.90	Thorium Th 232.04		Fluorine F 19.00	Arsenic As 74.92	Carbon C 12.01	Iodine I 126.90	Sodium Na 22.99	Titanium Ti 47.87	Nitrogen N 14.01	Nitrogen N 14.01	Oxygen O 16.00	Tellurium Te 127.60	Sulfur S 32.07	

SELF-RELIANCE

- 21 **Cook five real meals—**instant mac 'n cheese doesn't count.
- 22 **Sew.** Know at least the basics or get really ambitious and learn how to make your own clothes.
- 23 **Bake bread from scratch.** See how tasty a loaf you can make using as few ingredients as possible.
- 24 **Drive a stick-shift vehicle—**if you're of driving age, of course!
- 25 **Pick out good produce.** Do you tap on a watermelon to see if it's ripe? Smell it? Check for bee stings?
- 26 **Garden.** You can start by planting your favorite vegetable to give you some incentive.
- 27 **Make (and stick to!) a budget.** Consider starting a savings account and calculate how much interest you'll earn in five years.
- 28 **Become an upcycling pro.** See what ordinary things you can repurpose.



29 **Change a flat tire** on your bike, car, or unicycle.

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