



The Open
University

A man who knows two
languages is worth two men.

(French proverb)

On the importance of language learning

Sylvia Warnecke, The Open University in Scotland



obrigado

Dank U

Merci

mahalo

Köszí

спасибо

Grazie

Thank
you

mawuuru

Takk

Gracias

Dziękuję

Děkuju

danke

Kiitos



Danke	German
Merci	French
Grazie	Italian
Obrigado	Portuguese
Спасибо	Russian
Dziękuję	Polish
Děkuji	Czech
Dank U	Dutch
Mouruuru	Maori
Takk	Norwegian
Kiitos	Finnish
Köszi	Hungarian
Mahalo	Sotho



Imagine you lived in a country
with 11 official languages...

- ... how might your life be different?



What about you?

- Are you learning a language?
- Which language(s) do you already speak?
- What do you want to do with the language(s) you are learning?



Do you agree?



1. The best way to learn a foreign language is to go to a foreign country
2. The best way to learn a foreign language is to speak it
3. You are a foreigner, therefore you will always have a foreign accent
4. If you didn't learn a foreign language as a child, you will never be fully proficient in its grammar
5. Studying pronunciation is not important



Languages do not have to be difficult to learn

- 10 easiest languages to learn for English speakers:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationpicturegalleries/9722196/Easiest-foreign-languages-in-pictures.html?frame=2418200>



1. Afrikaans
2. French
3. Spanish
4. Dutch
5. Norwegian
6. Portugese
7. Spanish
8. Italian
9. Esperanto
10. German



10 most useful graduate languages



- Russian
- Mandarin
- Portugese
- French
- Spanish
- German
- ...



Speakers of more than one
language enjoy...



- wide-ranging opportunities for travel
- wide-ranging opportunities for new relationships
- wide-ranging opportunities for employment
- increased intelligence
- many new open doors



10 reasons to learn another language

- http://www.ehow.com/list_6511471_10-reasons-learn-foreign-language.html



1. To better appreciate travel abroad
2. To enhance job prospects at home and abroad
3. To conduct business more effectively
4. To better understand other cultures
5. To experience foreign literature, movies, music
6. To better understand your own culture
7. To improve your thinking
8. To make learning another foreign language easier
9. To study abroad
10. To increase ability in your own language

It is true that...



- In today's global economy, business is conducted across national boundaries on a regular basis. According to Washington State University College of Liberal Arts, no matter what career you choose, you'll have a real advantage if you've learned a second language.
- Foreign language study increases problem-solving skills, memory and self-discipline. Also, children who study a second language often score higher in seemingly unrelated subjects such as math and reading.
- Studying a foreign language helps you develop a knowledge of how languages work. This makes learning a third foreign language easier.
- Through a process of compare and contrast, you will develop a better understanding of and ability in your own language. As the German playwright Johann Wolfgang von Goethe remarked, "Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own."



Learning German – the smart choice

- <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/gla/lhr/wer/en11541516.htm>

Languages in my business



The Open University is the biggest distance learning university in the UK

- Language courses:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/qualifications/q30>

- OpenLearn: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages>

- Languages and the BBC:

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/whats-on/ou-on-the-bbc-berlin>

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/when-words-do-matter>

- Connections between subjects:

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/money-management/the-great-fall-business-impact>



New opportunities

- http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/?location_id=2969
- <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/gla/lhr/vor/en9047080.htm> -
Vorsprung mit Deutsch

How to learn a new language more easily



Fast Facts

- It is more productive to study a foreign language regularly for shorter periods of time than it is to study occasionally for longer periods of time because the brain is better able to retain the information when it is not overloaded. It is important to listen and read as much as possible, even when you cannot understand the material, because over time, it will increase your ability to make sense of the language. Self-made flash cards are the best way to memorize vocabulary.

Methods

- There are two primary techniques of second language learning. The first and most traditional method is a book-learned, systematic approach to understanding grammar and learning vocabulary. The second method is referred to as the cognitive approach, which attempts to recreate the surroundings of a child learning his native language by focusing on conversation and immersion. An effective immersion technique is to visit the native country.

Age

- Research shows that it is best to start learning a foreign language at a young age because the mind is more receptive to language at that stage of development. In fact, infants are born with the ability to recognize unique collections of sounds, but this skill quickly declines. Seven is the best age at which to learn a second language, but this, too, fades after puberty. For these reasons, many primary schools have foreign language programs.

Benefits

- Learning a foreign language has been shown to improve critical thinking skills, creativity and flexibility of the mind. As a result, students who take a second language have been shown to do better in other subjects. Bilingualism is also a marketable asset in many lucrative careers, such as health care, law and finance. Regardless of age, or whether or not you have a "knack" for languages, through perseverance and constant practice, anyone can learn a second language and enjoy these benefits.

Tips

- There are various activities to supplement books and classrooms that can increase bilingualism proficiency. For example, watching a foreign film can aid in the acquisition of authentic pronunciation, pace and dialect because it is not intentionally slowed down or formalized, as many learning tools are. Listening to music in a foreign language is beneficial because the melody and simple structure of the words can make new vocabulary easier to remember and use.
- http://www.ehow.com/about_6620896_learning-foreign-language.html



And remember... a little language
goes a long way

- <http://eurotalk.com/blog/2014/04/09/a-little-language-goes-a-long-way/>