

It is fascinating!

Learning languages introduces you to new ways of learning and experimenting with different communication styles. You will not simply learn grammar and new words, you will explore new sound systems, ways of expressing ideas and interacting with members from other communities.

How long does it take?

Becoming fluent takes time, just like learning math, training to dance or to play a musical instrument does. The Foreign Service Institute divides the World's languages into four groups. Category 1 languages are those most closely related to English in structure. It takes native speakers of English a minimum of 600 intensive class hours to become fluent in French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. German, which is a category 2 language, takes about 750 hours. Category 3 languages, which include Greek, Russian, Polish, Turkish, and Urdu, require 1100 hours, while the final category, containing Arabic, Chinese and Japanese, need you to commit to 2200 class hours to attain fluency.

It is estimated that currently

- over 800 Million people speak Chinese as their first language
- over 370 Million speak English
- over 350 Million speak Spanish
- over 250 Million speak Arabic
- over 190 Million speak Portuguese
- over 185 Million speak Russian
- over 130 Million speak French
- over 125 Million speak Japanese
- over 110 Million speak German
- over 60 Million speak Italian

Send to:

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WHY LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?



*Languages:
Doors to Opportunities*

Foreign Language Association of Maine



Learning Languages Equals Gaining a Competitive Edge!

Studying a second language can improve your skills and grades in math and English as well as your test scores, your analytic and interpretive abilities. Research has demonstrated that math and verbal SAT scores increase with each additional year of foreign language study. If English is your second language, expanding your knowl-

perspective on your own. You will also find that reading another culture's stories and connecting with people in their own language can be a source of surprise and fun, while you expand your horizons.

Your enhanced ability to communicate with others and gain knowledge beyond the world of English speakers also allows you to contribute to your community and country.

THE MORE LANGUAGES YOU KNOW - THE MORE OPPORTUNITIES YOU HAVE!

Which language?

It is entirely up to you! Regardless of your choice, learning it will make a difference in how you see the world and how well you get to know other people and places. Imagine the books, newspapers, websites, TV programs and movies you could understand!

While Latin and Ancient Greek are no longer spoken languages, gaining knowledge of how they function gives you a better understanding of English, French, German, and Spanish grammar and vocabulary. Latin is also the basis for many specialized terms in Medicine, Science, Law, Astronomy, Art History, and Music. Over 50 nations on four continents share many concepts of government, religion, art, literature and economic systems, which have their roots in Ancient Greece and Rome.

It's not called the World Wide Web for nothing!

As of 2008, the top ten Internet languages were (listed in order by number of users): English, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, French, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Korean, and Italian. Conversely, only 30% of all websites worldwide are in English.

edge of your native language, grammar, culture and literature while also learning English will also improve your chances for success.

Professional Advantages in a Global Economy!

An increasing number of businesses work closely with companies in other countries and therefore need many kinds of workers who can communicate in other languages and understand different cultures. Regardless of your career choice, knowing a second language presents a real advantage.

Within the U.S. knowing another language is also advantageous. Police officers, nurses, doctors, journalists, or hotel managers often find being fluent in other languages useful. If you know another language, you will be called upon to travel and will find advancement opportunities in government, business, law, medicine, health care, communications, social service, the military and marketing.

Discover yourself and the World!

Learning another language affords you an insider's view of another culture and a new

In short, studying a language

- helps expand your world view
- balances content and skills
- fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and culture
- raises cultural awareness
- contributes to the achievement of national goals, especially those of economic development and national security
- develops your intellect
- aids the acquisition of reflective learning strategies
- exposes the learner to other ways of thinking
- builds practical skills for travel, commerce, and tools for other disciplines
- teaches respect for diversity

Sources:

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