

European Day of Languages
26 September



Journée européenne des langues



European Centre for Modern Languages
Centre européen pour les langues vivantes
Europäisches Zentrum für moderne Sprachen

Here is a poem by Olivia McMahon

*Learning a language
Is like doing a jigsaw puzzle
Of a million pieces
With a picture that keeps changing.
It's like getting lost in a foreign city without a map.
It's like playing tennis without a ball,
like being an ant in a field of grasshoppers.
It's like being an acrobat with a broken leg,
An actor without a script,
A carpenter without a saw,
A storyteller without a middle or an end.
But then gradually
It's like being out in the early morning
with the mists lifting.
It's like a chink of light under a door,
like finding the glove you were looking for,
Catching the train you thought you were going to miss,
Getting an unlooked-for present,
Exchanging a smile.
And then one day it's like riding a bicycle
Very fast downhill.*



How many languages are there in the world?

The best estimate we have is nearly 7000, of which nearly half are in danger of extinction.

7000 is a lot of languages and each one is well adapted to the culture which uses it.



Most widely spoken languages in the world?

Depends on how you count up...

if you just measure people who speak
a language as their native tongue:

1. Mandarin Chinese*
2. English
3. Hindi
4. Spanish
5. Arabic
6. Russian
7. Portuguese
8. Bengali
9. Malay
10. French

* Chinese is a long way ahead with about a billion speakers

If you add up the native speakers with those who speak a second language:

1. Chinese
2. English
3. Spanish
4. Russian
5. French
6. Hindi
7. Arabic
8. Portuguese
9. Bengali



If you look at the number of countries
where languages are spoken :

1. English
2. French
3. Arabic
4. Spanish
5. Russian.


If you look at which languages are the most wanted by UK employers :

1. French
2. Spanish
3. German
4. Mandarin
5. Polish
6. Arabic
7. Cantonese
8. Russian
9. Dutch
10. Japanese
11. Portuguese

A calculation has been made as to the most important languages based on number of speakers, the countries the languages are spoken in, economic influence and prestige, for example the influence of the literature in the language :

1. English
2. French
3. Spanish
4. Russian
5. Arabic

**Chinese is suspected to figure in that list soon*

The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract composition. It features large, overlapping shapes in yellow, blue, red, and green. Superimposed on these are white-outlined silhouettes of human heads and profiles, some facing left and some facing right, creating a sense of global diversity and communication.

Now, why bother to learn a language if English is the most important language in the world?

10 reasons

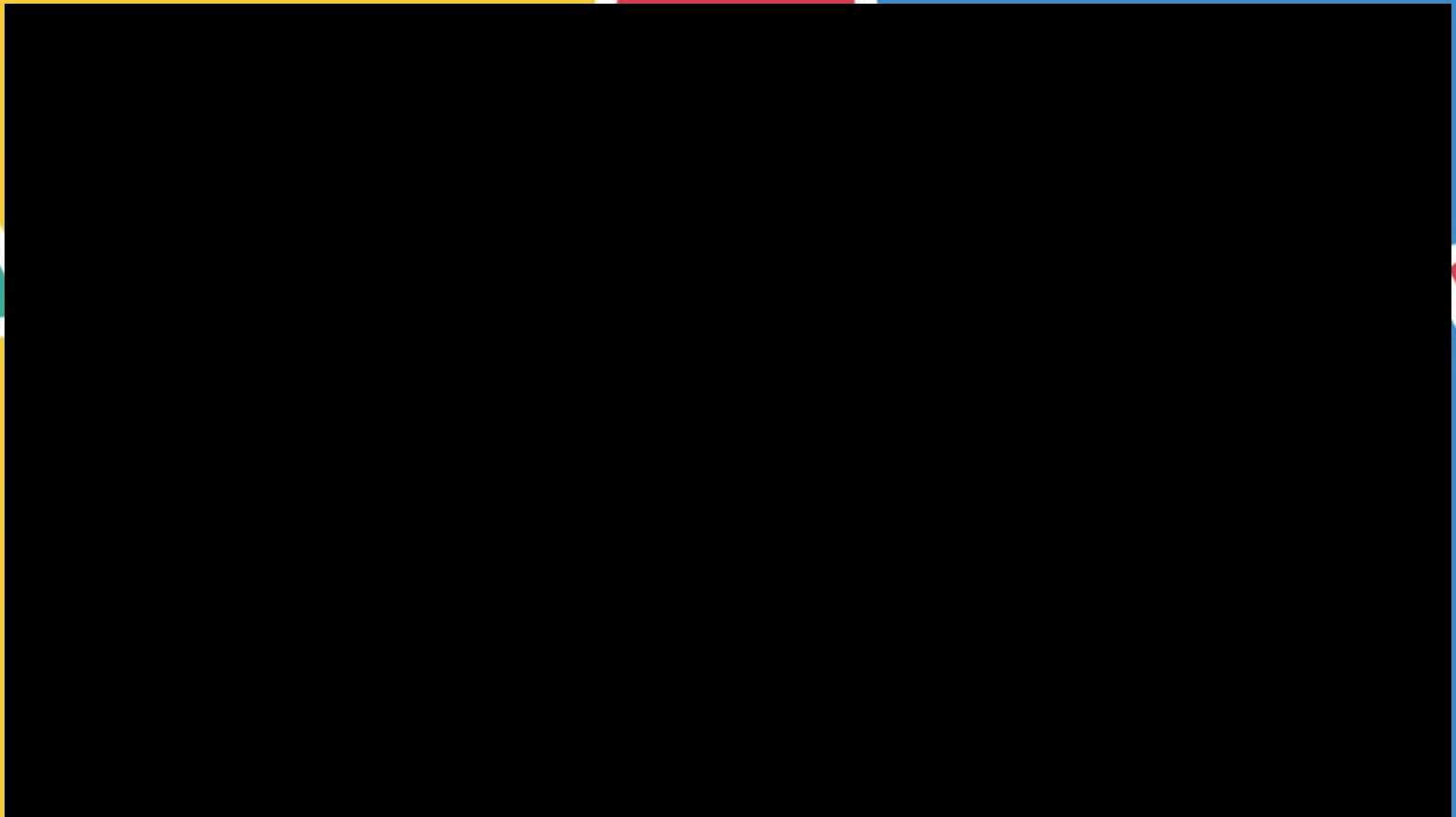
Reason 1

When you travel abroad, for example on holiday, you'll be able to talk with people who can't speak English. This shows courtesy and respect. remember that only about 5% of the world population speak English. It's a myth that you don't have to learn other languages because everyone speaks English anyway.



“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” ~ Nelson Mandela

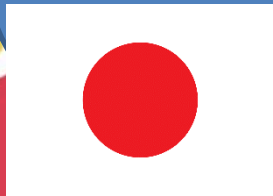
Could this be you...?



Reason 2

You may need a foreign language for your job. By the way, students with languages find it easier to get jobs than students with almost any other training.

"As the world gets smaller, there's never been a better opportunity to get into languages."



Gary Linekar

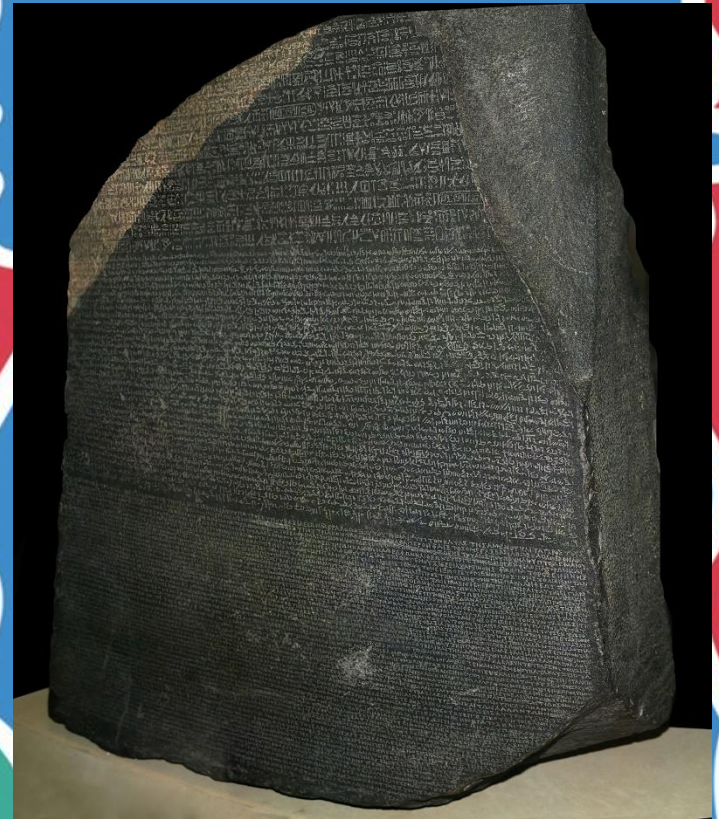
Reason 3

You may just enjoy learning a language – using the sounds, working out rules and so on

Reason 3

How do linguists "decode" ancient languages that are no longer used?

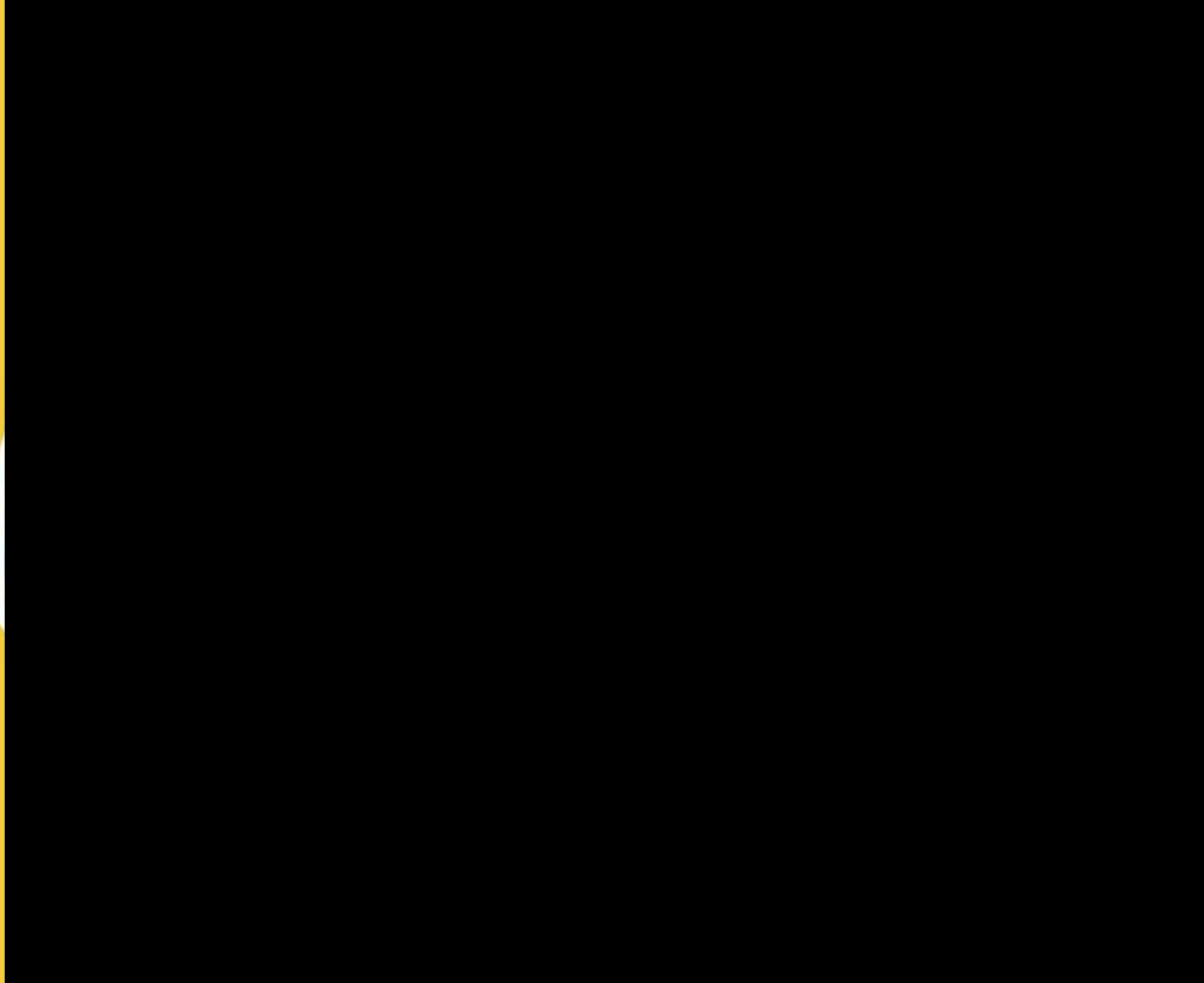
The Rosetta Stone is the best example. Written in Ancient Greek and Egyptian Hieroglyphs it provided the key to the meaning of various Hieroglyphs. But that was just the start. Linguists then needed to work out the correct meanings of other symbols which they did not have the Greek equivalents of. They did this by examining the context of words. It took a lot of people a long time, and there are still arguments today about what certain symbols mean in certain places.



Reason 4

It will make you seem clever. People seem to be impressed when you can speak more than one language. On the other hand, you can feel hopeless when you can't speak another person's language.

For example.....



Reason 5

You can have secret conversations which other people don't understand

Piers Morgan says Jeremy Corbyn started speaking Spanish to Arsenal star Hector Bellerin to 'shut him out of the conversation'

'Don't take it personally', the footballer later tweeted at Morgan

Harry Cockburn | 7 days ago | 325 comments



48K shares

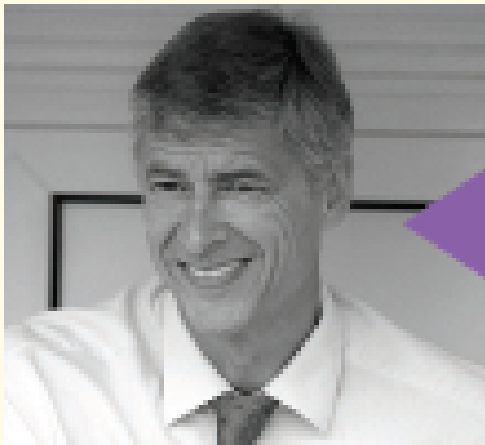
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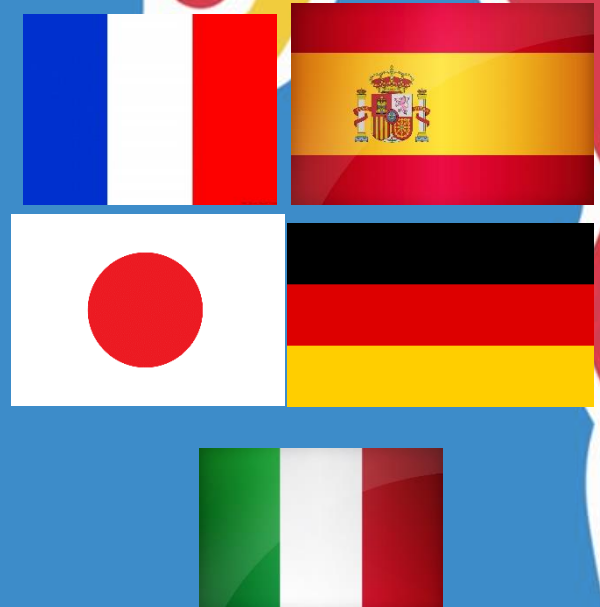
Reason 6

Research shows that learning a language can make you better at learning other subjects.



Every time you learn a new language, the next one is easier to learn. When you speak Italian, Spanish becomes easier. With German, English gets easier.

Arsène
Wenger



Reason 7

You can watch films and read in another language..



Learn a Foreign Language



- Watch Tv with subtitles
- Listen to Foreign Music
- Change the language on your Phone and facebook
- Use iTalki
- Download Duolingo

READ MORE...

GIRLVSGLOBE.COM



Reason 8

It helps you learn about other cultures. It's hard to really get to know another country and people unless you understand their language.

Language learning at its best
can be one of the most enjoyable
and rewarding experiences that
life can offer

Sir Trevor McDonald



Reason 9

It makes you understand your own language better.

Reason 10

When you learn another language not only do you learn about the other country, but it also makes you look at your own country in a different way; it probably makes you a more tolerant person; it teaches you to listen to others, communicate better and it broadens your horizons.

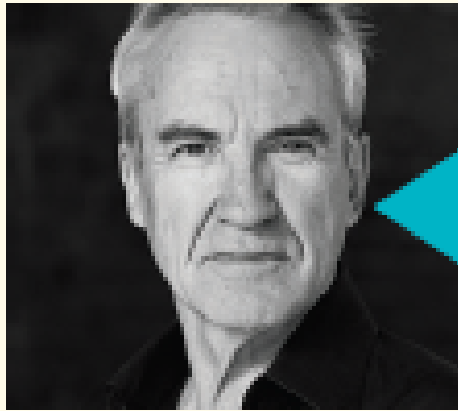
Reason 10

Someone once said that to learn another language is to learn another vision of life.

The poem by Olivia McMahan said that learning a language is like being lost in a foreign city, but if you work at it for a long time it becomes, as she put it, like riding a bike downhill.

Larry Lamb actor

Spanish, Italian, German, French



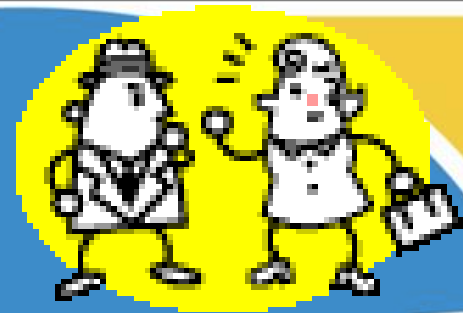
Without languages my journey would have been a completely different one. Learn as many languages as you can! You will be a bigger person for it.

**“The limits of my language are the
limits of my world.”**

–Ludwig Wittgenstein



So remember...



Not everyone speaks English –it's a multilingual, multicultural world.

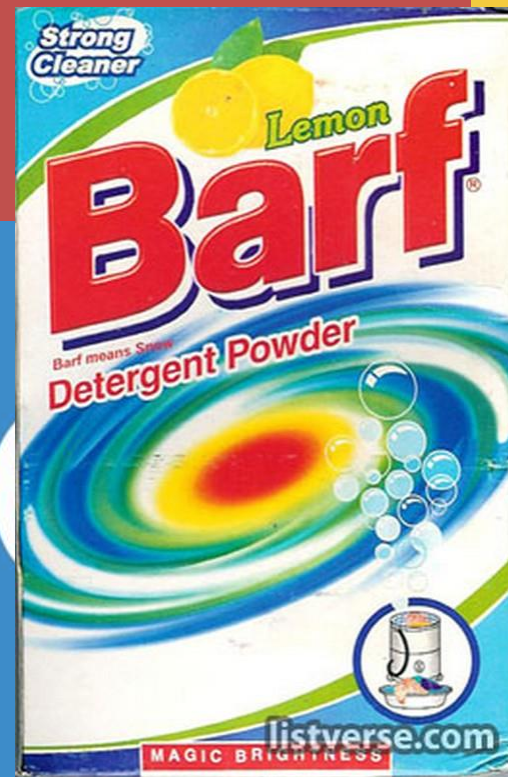
You do not have to be fluent in a language – there is room for all levels of ability in all types of work.

Languages improve the quality of your life and your understanding of how other people live and think.

But... don't worry, we've got GOOGLE
translate!



Languages are funny!



Just for a laugh! Stereotype

German, the language of LOVE?!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41lZmGcRWHU>