

# Why Learn Another Language?



**Keep your brain revving in high gear!** Studies have shown that the process of learning a second language improves memory and attention overall by 20%. For young linguists, math skills have been shown to increase by 12.5% and standardized test scores by 10%. In older language learners, the likelihood of Alzheimer's and dementia later in life decreases.



**Get a great job and increase in your pay!** In today's competitive global marketplace, you are a more attractive job candidate if you can speak another language. Plus, labor statistics show that people who know a second language earn up to 20% more over the course of their career than those who don't.



**Travel with confidence!** You can use your language skills to navigate the world and enjoy a deeper connection with fellow travelers and local hosts. A little understanding of the local language goes a long way in helping figure out where you are, what to do, and how to jump in.



**Understand cultural contexts better!** Knowing another language is more than just speaking it correctly. You grasp the cultural nuance and meaning that enables you to communicate sensitively and appropriately with the people around you. You better understand body language and are able to read between the lines, as the unspoken words are equally, if not more, important.



**Find yourself on your family tree!** Language helps you communicate with relatives who still speak that language. Or you may uncover more details of your family history, ethnic heritage and cultural traditions. Learning language enables you to discover who you are by connecting with your past and opening a brand-new window of understanding of your present and future selves.



**Talk with friends and neighbors at home!** An estimated 20% of current American families speak another language at home. If you speak more than one language, you will be able to communicate and connect with more friends, neighbors and colleagues not only around the world, but also across the street.



**Become a better communicator!** The process of learning another language forces you to become a better listener. Likewise, you think more carefully about what you are going to say and how you are going to say it. Both of these skills make you an overall better communicator in your own language, as well as other languages.



**Think more broadly about the world!** Speaking another language compels you to leave your comfort zone. You will stand in someone else's shoes and experience a different perspective by challenging your framework of beliefs, values and attitudes. You will broaden your worldview, dispel preconceived notions and become more open to alternative ways of doing things. You will then see your own corner of the world with greater clarity and discernment.



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