**Why Study Languages?**

**Pre-listening activities**

1. Write down the top reason why you think studying another language is useful:

2. Here is how to say “Hello” in all the languages we teach to degree level at the University of Manchester. But do you know what they are?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **你 好** Ni Hao |  |
| **こんにちは** Konnichiwa |  |
| **здравствуйте**Zdravstvuite  |  |
| السلام عليكم Assalamu alaykum |  |
| Bom dia |  |
| Hola |  |
| Bonjour |  |
| Guten Tag |  |
| Ciao |  |

2a List as many countries as you can where English is spoken as the main or as an official language:

2b Have a guess: how many people in the world can speak English (native speakers plus learners of English as a foreign language)

I think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of the world’s population can speak English.

3. Can you list five jobs where having foreign language skills could be important?

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**While-listening activity**

1. Check your answers above against the facts given in the video. How many did you get right?

2. Is there a fact you find particularly surprising? Write it below:

**Post-listening activities**

1. **Six Good Reasons for Studying Languages**

Have a look at the six reasons below. Obviously, they are in a language you don’t know – but can you still work out what the six reasons are? Try to match the English translations to the original.

**1 a**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***The mystery language***  | ***Write down the number of the correct translation***  |  | ***The English translation*** |
| Du kan få ett jobb |  |  | 1. It’ll get you places.
 |
| Du har nytta av det ute i världen |  |  | 1. It is exciting.
 |
| Du kommer att träffa mycket folk |  |  | 1. You’ll find out more about yourself.
 |
| Du lär känna dig själv bättre |  |  | 1. You can enjoy new cultures.
 |
| Du kan uppleva nya kulturer  |  |  | 1. It’ll get you a job.
 |
| Det är spännande |  |  | 1. You’ll meet loads of new people.
 |

**1 b**

So...what is the mystery language? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Check your answers here: <https://tinyurl.com/mfl-champ>

**2. Animal noises in other languages**

Do some research to see if you can find out the noises animals make in other languages. Challenge your classmates to guess what animal makes this noise.

For example: Which animal goes “boong” in Korean? (Answer: a bee)

**3. Reflection**

Have a look at the top reason you gave for studying languages in the pre-listening activity. Reflect on what you’ve heard in the video – has your view changed? Or have you perhaps added some more reasons?

**Further reading and watching**

**Want to explore languages some more? Here are great links to do so:**

* <http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/> A website with loads of activities.
* <https://www.youtube.com/user/LindsayDoesLanguages> Lindsay loves languages and there is lots of fun content to explore on her Youtube channel.
* <https://www.languagesquad.com/> A language guessing and identifying game.

**Thinking ahead – languages at university and careers with languages**

* <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/subjects/what-can-you-do-languages-degree> Times Higher’s guide to studying languages at university
* <https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/modern-languages/> Our own website – the University of Manchester
* <https://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/whichcareer/languagecareers/> Information from the University of Manchester’s careers service about language careers