

Why Study Languages?

Pre-listening activities

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

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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:

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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?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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	
Du har nytta av det ute i världen	
Du kommer att träffa mycket folk	
Du lär känna dig själv bättre	
Du kan uppleva nya kulturer	
Det är spännande	

1. It'll get you places.
2. It is exciting.
3. You'll find out more about yourself.
4. You can enjoy new cultures.
5. It'll get you a job.
6. 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