

European Day of Languages



Why choose languages?

Mr Jacobe

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@schools_british

britishcouncil.org/school-resources

Languages open
hearts and minds



— Why learn languages?



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

Nelson Mandela



— Why learn languages?



**“If I’m selling to you,
I speak your language; if
I’m buying dann müssen Sie
Deutsch sprechen [then you
must speak German]”.**

Willy Brandt
Former German Chancellor



— Why learn languages?



“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”

Frank Smith
Canadian linguist



What languages do people in the UK speak?



What do young people say?



Ranking	Statement	% of total response
=1	Languages are a useful skill to have for many future careers. AGREE	72%
=1	Speaking other languages is an important part of being able to understand different cultures and places. AGREE	72%
2	Trips abroad and communicating with native speakers are an essential part of learning a language. AGREE	71%

What do young people say?



Ranking	Statement	% of total response
=3	Learning other languages is a waste of my time. DISAGREE	65%
=3	Some of my friends intend to study languages at GCSE. AGREE	65%
4	Languages are more of a girls' subject than a boys' subject. DISAGREE	62%
5	Q5_9. Learning foreign languages will be useful for my future travel plans. AGREE	61%

— Did you know?



Those most likely to choose to study a language at school are

- **Girls**
- **Those living in London/East of England**
- **The socially advantaged**

Gender

Boys are less likely than girls to be encouraged to study languages by their parents/guardians, and less likely to enjoy languages; to see themselves as good language learners, or to view the subject as important.

— Hear from
pupils at
**Prince
Henry's
school**





01

**Why do you think
people should
learn languages?**

02

**Why are girls
more likely to
choose languages
than boys?**

03

**What's your
favourite word?**

شكرًا لك

Благодаря ти

Děkuji

감사합니다

धन्यवाद

tak skal du have

谢谢

Рахмат

Merci

Danke

Ευχαριστώ

Mahalo

Grazie

Pakka þér fyrir

Thank you!

תודה

ありがとう

ಧನ್ಯವಾದ

Bedankt

Ačiū

Grazzi

धन्यवाद

Tack

Cảm ơn

Salamat

אדאנק