

GOOD REASONS TO LEARN LANGUAGES

Activity 1 - Warm-up: Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions below.

1. How long have you been learning English?
2. Why do you learn English?
3. Can you speak any other languages?

If YES:

4. Which language(s) can you speak?
5. Why did/do you learn them?

If NO:

6. Would you like to learn a new language?
7. Which language(s) would you like to learn?
8. Why would you like to learn it/them?

Activity 2 - Let's sum up

- What's the average time of learning English in your group?
- How many languages can your group speak in total?
- Which languages are spoken in your group?
- What's the most common reason why your group learns languages?
- Which new language would most of you would like to learn?

Activity 3 - Which languages are most important to learn? Work in pairs. Discuss and select top 10 languages.

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...
7. ...
8. ...
9. ...
10. ...



English
Mandarin Arabic
Hungarian Italian
French Hindi Dutch
German
Spanish Japanese Polish
Urdu Russian
Latin Turkish
Portuguese

Why do you believe it's important to learn these languages? Why are they so popular?

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Activity 4 - Compare your ranking with the list from the website:

corelanguages.com/top-ten-important-languages

Are there any languages that you and your groupmates speak or learn or would like to learn? Which ones?



Activity 5 - Look at the reasons for learning languages.

Which ones correspond with your ideas from previous activities and discussions?

Learning languages...	Matthew	John	Your partner
.... is fun and pleasure			
.... brings me closer to other cultures			
.... makes me discover my new faces			
.... helps me understand the world			
.... makes me successful at work			
.... keeps my brain in a good shape			

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Activity 6 - Watch and complete the table for Matthew and John

Write down their reasons, explanations, experience and examples.



Matthew's 7 Reasons to Learn Languages
bit.ly/Matthews7reasons



John McWhorter's talk about language
learning bit.ly/4reasonstolearn

Activity 7 - Interview your partner

Make up 5 questions you get to know your partner's reasons why s/he learns foreign languages. Interview your partner and write down the answers in the table.

E.g. Is it fun to learn English? Why?

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. ...

Activity 8 - Compare and reflect

What do you and your partner have in common with John and Matthew?

What have you learnt about language learning from their experience?

Activity Project

Prepare a 1-minute talk in which you present your attitude towards learning foreign languages and if you want - encourage others to pick up a new language.