

SESSION TITLE: Importance of Language

INSTRUCTOR: Angie Clark



“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.” –
Rita Mae Brown

Intro by Angie Clark

1. Our Responsibility to Reach People

I Corinthians 9:16-27

¹⁶For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, **woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!**

- Responsibility to preach the Gospel (Vs. 16)
- Become relatable (Vs. 17-22)
- Do not expect people to come to your level (you waste a lot of time); but go to theirs
- Have a balanced life (Vs.23-27)
- Receive an eternal reward
- Focus on the task at hand; do not just beat air (i.e. unfocused learning)

By Tonya Schwarz

2. Learning a Language as a Missionary

Reasons a Missionary Should Learn the Language:

- To Preach the Gospel in a culturally understandable way
- To Help You Get to Know the People/Culture Better
- Form True Friendships
- To Be Able to Pray with People in their Language
- Learning their Language Shows Genuine Love

“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

If you want people to understand you, speak their language. –African Proverb

Reasons Why Missionaries Fail to Learn the Language:

- Over-Spiritualizing

- Impatient to Start Ministry
- Underestimating the Importance of Language Study
- Lack of Opportunity

3. Basic reasons why learning a new language can be beneficial:

- Good for your Brain!
- Improves Your Listening Skills
- Become More Open-Minded
- Multitasker
- Free Access to More than 1 Culture

4. Working With an Interpreter

One thing to remember is that an interpreter will always interpret in the 1st person. Here are some tips on how to best work with an interpreter.

1. Talk directly to the people, not the interpreter: This will help you connect with the people, even though you are speaking through an interpreter.
2. Make eye contact
3. Speak clearly: Make sure to pronounce your words clearly. Remember sometimes the interpreter's second language is English.
4. Pause: Pause after a 3-4 sentences.
5. Complete thought: Make sure to complete your thought before the interpreter speaks.
6. Avoid acronyms, slang and jargon: Most of the time it is not possible to translate them and maintain their meanings. Some acronyms would have to be fully translated in order to make sense.
7. Use simple language: Avoid ambiguous language.
8. Non-existing concepts: Remember you are in a foreign country where they do things differently. If possible, speak with the missionary beforehand when in doubt about a specific concept.
9. Sensitive Issues
10. Time allocation: Remember that when you speak with an interpreter, it will take double the time. A 30- minute message could take 50-60 mins. with an interpreter.

Reasons Why Long-Term Ministry Through Translation is a Bad Idea:

- You will always be one step removed from the people you are ministering to.
- You will have to be dependent on others to know what is really going on.
- Other than the basic tasks, you will be unable to do many things on your own.
- Your lack of desire to learn the language communicate unconsciously to the country
- that they aren't important enough.

5. Tips on Learning a New Language

Learning a new language is one of the most fulfilling things you can do in life. It opens the door of communication, cultural understanding, and personal relationships that otherwise would be impossible.

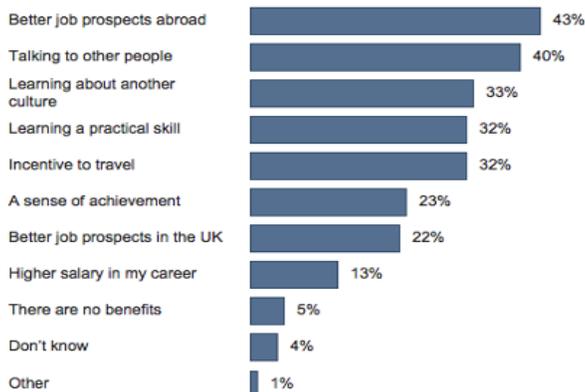
- Personal Sessions with a Native Speaker
- Enroll in Scheduled Learning
- Trust the Process

Follow the principles of daily study, boldly trying to communicate, and not giving up. Enjoy every victory no matter how small it might seem. One day, very soon, you will stand to sing, teach, and preach in a new language.

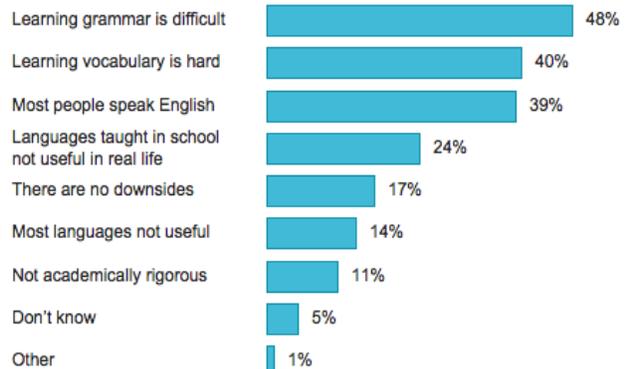
“Never, never, never give up.” Winston Churchill

These surveys were taken from The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/nov/07/-sp-do-young-people-care-about-learning-foreign-languages-data>

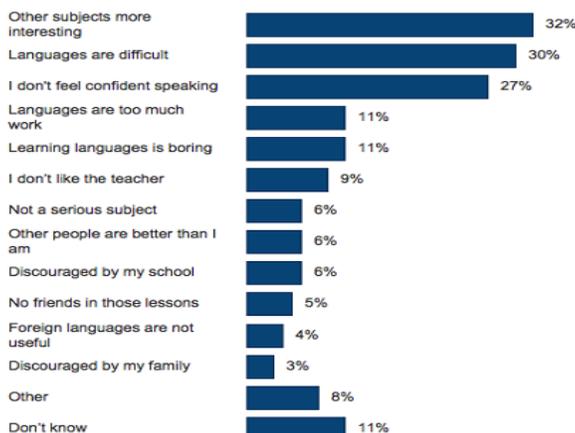
What are the three main benefits to learning a language?



What are the three main downsides to learning a language?



Which of the following reasons describe why you chose not to study a foreign language at GCSE?



What would encourage you to learn a language?

