

Benefits of learning a foreign language

Ever since I was a little child, I have always liked learning words and expressions in other languages. When I was nine, I started studying English at school and I loved it. I learned a lot about English grammar and vocabulary at school and, when I was sixteen, I had the opportunity to go to an exchange program in Canada. I stayed there for one year, living with a Canadian family. It was one of the best experiences of my life. During my stay there, I started studying French, which is also an official language in Canada. I studied hard, but it was totally worth it. French is a beautiful language.



Karina Pereira, a language enthusiast, talks about her exchange program experience learning foreign languages.

After I came back to Brazil, I started studying Spanish. I think it is very important for Brazilians to learn this language because here in South America most countries' official language is Spanish. I absolutely loved learning this language and, thanks to that, now I have friends from Uruguay, Peru and Argentina – which are places I have been to. Keeping in touch with these friends is a great way to practice the language.

I am also learning Chinese and German. These languages are a little bit more difficult for me, but being able to say even a few expressions in these languages is extremely rewarding.

Some people ask me why I dedicate so much of my time to learning languages. I always say there are a lot of benefits. For example, learning a foreign language improves your memory and increases your attention span; gives you access to a great range of information; enables you to communicate with people from different places and cultures and to make wonderful friends; provides you with insight into another way of thinking, another mind-set; makes you a more interesting person; improves your chances of finding a good job; and so on.

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So, if you haven't started studying a foreign language yet, my question is: what are you waiting for?

3. Read the text and check. This text is...

- ☐ an opinion article, in which the author provides her experience and points of view about an issue.
- ☐ a letter to the editor, in which the author comments on an article published in the newspaper.

- a) Where is the author of the text from?
- b) How many languages does she speak, including the ones she is learning?
- c) Which languages are these?
- d) How old was she when she went to an exchange program in Canada?
- e) How long did she stay there?
- f) In her opinion, why is it important for Brazilians to learn Spanish?
- g) Do you agree with her? Why?
- h) Is she enjoying learning Chinese and German?



5. According to the author, learning languages has many benefits. Write the benefits she mentions in the corresponding categories.

Intellectual	Cultural	Professional	Personal
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

it improves your chances of finding a good job	it enables you to make wonderful friends. it makes you an interesting person.	It enables you to communicate with people from different places and cultures. It provides with a insight into another way of thinking or mind-set	it improves your memory and increases your attention span. It gives you access to a great range of information
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6. Read the question the author asks the readers in the last paragraph.

So, if you haven't started studying a foreign language yet, my question is: what are you waiting for?

- Check the alternative that shows her intention with this question.
 - ☐ She wants to criticize people who can't speak a foreign language.
 - ☐ She wants to motivate people to start studying a foreign language.