Monday, January 25th, 2019.

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.

Luis Molinero/Shutterstock.com

Karina Pereira, a language enthusiast, talks about her 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.

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.

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS