

There are between **6,000** and **7,000** languages in the world - spoken by about 7 billion people divided into **189** independent states.



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Myths and realities about language learning

MYTH: WHAT'S THE POINT IN LEARNING LANGUAGES WHEN EVERYONE CAN SPEAK ENGLISH!

REALITY:

In fact there is a great and increasing demand in the workplace for people who can speak languages other than English.

75% of the world's population do not speak English.

Other European countries are aiming for skills in three languages.

60+% of British trade is with non-English speaking countries.

British businesses have the poorest language skills in Europe.



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72%

of UK firms employ people with
languages skills.

Would **you** get a job in one of them?



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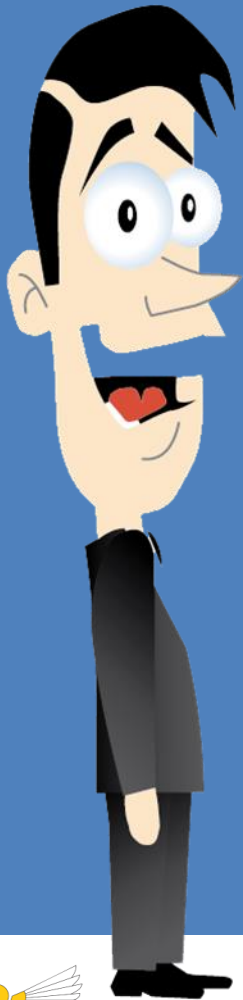
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8% to 20%

more

to your salary? Well, on average that's exactly how much more you earn after learning a foreign language.

Do you want to make more of your life...?



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- **This month's jobs with languages:**
 - Interpreter with United Nations: £90,983
 - DVD subtitle: £23,000
 - Linguist with MI5, the Security Service: £21,000
 - Banking Trader: £30,000
- **Oh... these are just starting salaries per year.**
- **Will that do...?**



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English is not enough

- 94% of the planet don't speak English as their mother tongue
- 75% do not speak English at all



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The words educated people use – their active vocabulary – **can reach some 50,000 words**; the words they know but do not use – their passive vocabulary – is somewhat larger.

In everyday conversation, people often make use of a small number of words, but with great frequency.

It has been estimated that a 21-year-old has already uttered some 50 million words.



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The main language families in Europe are **Germanic, Romance and Slavic.**



Germanic languages are Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic and Swedish.

Slavic languages include Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Polish, Sorbian and Czech.

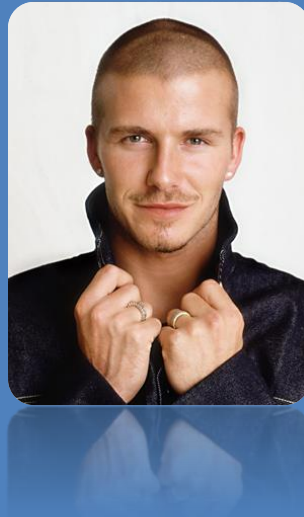
Romance languages are Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Occitan, French, Catalan, Galician and Sardinian.



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David Beckham: I haven't conquered Spanish yet. I'm learning and understand what is said during training. I'm progressing little by little. Spanish is very difficult for me, although I am getting used to it. I am making an effort. It is complicated. But if I can conquer Spanish, it will have been a great achievement.



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Paul McCartney: I like languages. In school I learnt Latin, Spanish and German. On tour I have good translators that I work with. They translate what I want to say to the audience, I write it down and learn it. In 2003, Putin invited me and Heather to the Kremlin. I was telling him how I like to speak to the crowd, and I said I was going to say '*Privyet Maskvichi*'. He said 'Don't say that, say "*Priv-ee-et ribiata*". It means "Hi guys".' He said it's much cooler. Talk about how things have changed. For years the Kremlin wouldn't let you sing in Russia, and now they're coming to your gig and they're giving you language lessons on the side. I love it!



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Enjoy the International Day of Languages at Platanos College!



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