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Foreign Language Skills At Top Of "Needs" List

By Languageskillsabroad.com

There was a time when speaking a second language was a skill that only the rich and famous strived to acquire. It was a delightful when someone knew just the right French phrase to drop at a party. Only United Nations translators actually needed foreign language skills to earn a living. But all of that has changed.

First jet aircraft cut the world to half its size, followed by the Internet which has shrunk the world to one global neighborhood. Now, no matter what your job title is, you're just as likely to serve a customer or client who speaks Spanish, French or Japanese as you are to serve a client who speaks English.

It's no longer a luxury to be able to speak a foreign language. In fact, for many jobs, being bi-lingual is either an absolute job requirement, or you'll at least be at a competitive disadvantage against other applicants who do speak a foreign language.

And it's not just police and fire dispatchers, EMS technicians and law enforcement officers who are finding it necessary to speak a foreign language. Many healthcare professionals, salespeople and even retail and food service employees see bigger paychecks and happier clients when they have a foreign language skill.

Take Spanish for example. Of the 5,000 spoken languages in the world, Spanish is #3 in the order of number of people who speak that language. Only the Chinese and Indian languages rank higher.

Even English, which is the primary language for an estimated 330 million people, falls behind Spanish which is estimated to be spoken by 346 million people.

As the number of Spanish language speakers continues to grow, colleges and corporations are responding to the pressing need for foreign language publications and marketing materials as well as foreign language radio and television spots.

U.S. businesses are reaching out to Spanish foreign language speaking consumers through advertising outlets such as CNN en Español, CBS Telenoticias, Univisión, and Telemundo. Being able

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to communicate in a foreign language is big business and people who do not have foreign language skills will be left behind.

Missing out on the income opportunities of speaking a second language doesn't make sense now that the methods of teaching people to speak a foreign language have changed so dramatically.

Today, one of the easiest and most fun ways to learn a foreign language is through a process called "full foreign language immersion". Here's how it works:

You pick the foreign language that you want to learn, such as Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian, or Spanish, and then you contact a foreign language immersion agency, like the company Language Skills Abroad that operates a web site at

<http://www.languageskillsabroad.com/>

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They match you up with a quality overseas foreign language school and help you with all of the travel details and living accommodations.

The end result is that you learn your chosen foreign language quicker, because you are living and learning among people who actually speak your target foreign language.

<http://www.languageskillsabroad.com>

The Benefits Of Learning A Foreign Language

By Languageskillsabroad.com

If you're wondering whether or not it's worth the time to learn a foreign language, read these Top Benefits of Learning A Foreign Language before you decide.

#1 Reason for learning a foreign language: More money and better job opportunities.

A recent article in the NY Times quoted New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer on the subject of a lawsuit filed against the State of NY charging that "lack of basic translation services in several New York City hospitals is endangering immigrant patients and violating state and federal law."

It's lawsuits like this that underline the importance of employers hiring people that can speak a foreign language. As the lawsuit points out, it's no longer a matter of political correctness to be able to service your customers in their native language. In some instances, such as public health and public safety organizations, it can be truly a matter of live or death!

Many employers are responding to the need to hire people who speak a foreign language by offering

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more money to start and higher raises throughout their career.

In addition to pay scale, being able to speak a foreign can also help open the opportunity to qualify for more exotic and interesting jobs such as foreign service officer for the CIA or State Department, or foreign language specialist for the National Security Agency.

#2 Reason for learning a foreign language: Increased perception of intelligence.

It is a generally accepted notion that people who speak a second or foreign language are perceived as being more intelligent than those who do not have any foreign language skills. In Europe, where the majority of the population speaks their own native language as well as at least English, if not a third or even fourth foreign language, Americans are perceived as being less intelligent because we are not bilingual for the most part.

#3 Reason for learning a foreign language: More social opportunities

When you speak a foreign language you have the opportunity to associate with others who either speak the language natively or have learned a foreign language in addition to their own native language. You end up expanding your circle of social and business contacts and, as a result, you are open to being invited to more social and business functions.

#4 Reason for learning a foreign language: More rewarding travel opportunities

It's just plain more fun and interesting when you vacation in a country where you speak the language. Not only do the locals treat you better, because they see that you made an effort to learn their language, but you get better service in shops and restaurants because you can read the signs, understand the menu, and converse better with the staff. Being able to speak the native foreign language can be a lifesaver if you have a medical emergency and have to communicate your symptoms to medical staff who may not speak English as well as you would hope they could.

For a look at a unique way to learn a foreign language using an amazing technique known as "foreign language immersion", visit Language Skills Abroad at

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