Why study a foreign language?



Here are the ***ABC***’**’**s of it! Research has shown that:

***A:*** Analyzing skills improve when students study a foreign language.

***B:*** Business skills plus foreign language skills make an employee more valuable in the marketplace.

***C:*** Creativity is increased with the study of a foreign language.

***D:*** Dealing with another culture enables people to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture.

***E:*** English vocabulary skill increases.

***F:*** Foreign language study creates more positive attitudes and less prejudice toward people who are culturally different.

***G:*** Graduates often cite foreign language courses as some of the most valuable courses they took in college because of the communication skills they developed in the process.

***H:*** Higher order thinking skills – like problem-solving, dealing with abstract concepts and making inferences – are increased when you study a foreign language.

***I:*** International travel is made easier and more pleasant through knowing a foreign language.

***J:*** Job mobility and chances for promotion are often attributed to knowledge of a foreign language.

***K:*** Knowledge of a foreign language promotes understanding of the difficulty immigrants face as they attempt to learn English.

***L:*** Liberal arts training which includes foreign language study is sought more and more by prospective employers.

***M:*** Memory is enhanced through foreign language study.

***N:*** Non-gifted students’ ACT scores show that they gain more from foreign language study than gifted students.

***O:*** Overseas business and joint ventures mean fluency in another language is now practically a requirement for employment in many American or transnational corporations.

***P:*** Personnel in the army are paid more than others if they have foreign language skills.

***Q:*** Quality of English writing among students improves with foreign language study.

***R:*** Reading skill in English improves when students study a foreign language.

***S:*** Sat scores are higher for foreign language students, particularly on the English section.

***T:*** Traveling abroad enhances cultural awareness and self-concept.

***U:*** Ugly Americanism as a national stereotype is a partially based on our belief that the whole world speaks English.

***V:*** Various verbal and even non-verbal tests of intelligence have shown bilinguals to outperform monolinguals.

***W:*** Working-class students do just as well in foreign language study as middle class students, and there is no difference between genders or races in this area.

***eX:*** Expertise in a foreign language aids the cognitive development of children.

***Zzzzzzzz…*** Wake up and smell the café! There are lots of vocational opportunities for foreign language speakers from government service to hotel management to Peace Crops service, business, and travel occupations.