

Where next?

Before you make any decisions about what you study – do a little research:

- Ask your teachers and Connexions Personal Adviser for information about the benefits of learning languages for future study and for career prospects. There are lots of books, leaflets, videos and posters in the careers library and at Connexions shops.


- Make sure you go with your parents to school options evenings where you can talk to careers advisers and subject teachers.

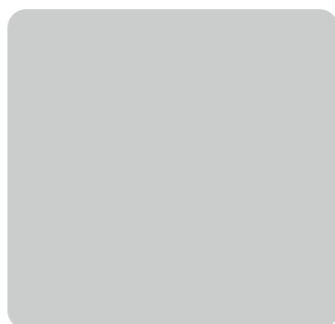
Connexions

www.connexions-direct.com
The Connexions website has a lot of information about courses, training and jobs. Have a look and speak to your Personal Adviser or Careers teacher if you have further questions.

Languages Work

www.languageswork.org.uk
Look at our website if you haven't already. You'll find games, links and stories about people and how they have used languages. It'll tell you how you can continue with languages or pick them up later, and what sort of companies like languages. Plus there is a list of celebrity linguists – you'll be surprised!
We also have a wide range of other resources, including postcards, posters, a factsheet for older students and a CD-ROM – ask your Languages teacher or Connexions Personal Adviser.

 You will find digital files of this factsheet on the 'Introducing Languages Work' CD-ROM.



Mind your language*

* How languages can work for you



A great way to start getting to know and understand other people better is by learning their language. You will learn so much more about them – the music they enjoy listening to, the food they like to eat, their sport, culture and history. Talking to people in their own language is important because it makes them feel good and you will feel more welcome. Plus you won't have to rely on their speaking English. There are three things that you should always remember about languages:



1. It's a multilingual world – not everyone speaks English.

94% of the world does not speak English as their first language.
75% of the world does not speak English at all.

2. You do not have to be fluent in a language – a little language can make a lot of difference.

Even the basic phrases make a real difference.
Jobs from receptionist to top level management need language skills.

3. Languages improve the quality of your life and your understanding of how other people live and think.

You can travel more and meet new people.
You could earn more in your job one day!



Get more!

How do you like spending your time? Whether you are watching a TV programme, following your favourite sport, or want to get to know more about someone you have just met, being able to do these things in another

language is fun and helps you to get more out of it. The better you get, the more you will be able to do with your languages. You can buy or sell things, surf the net, enjoy books and films or simply win an argument!

Hit the road!

Travel abroad is a lot more interesting when you can speak the language of the country you are visiting. You will also learn more about the country so you will have more idea of what there is to see and do.

Even something simple like having a meal will be easier when you understand the menu and when you can make choices about what you might like to eat. If you go on a school trip abroad, take the chance to practise your language with the people of your own age that you meet on the ski slopes, on the beach or in the town.

Get a job!

Some people think that the only jobs available using languages are in translation, interpreting or teaching. This isn't true. In fact, languages can be helpful in lots of different jobs and many employers reward people with

language skills with extra salary because they know they are useful in today's international business world. Remember, different languages are useful in different places. Here are just a few jobs where languages are important: ● accountant ● air hostess ● computer games designer ● engineer ● journalist ● marketing manager ● tourist guide.

Mix it up!

Languages go really well with a wide range of subjects. When you are choosing what to do in Key Stage 4 and beyond you will find that a language will come in very handy. For example, a language with Business or

Media Studies will help you when you look for a job later on. You can keep combining in this way through college and university – many students choose to study a little or a lot of languages alongside a huge choice of subjects. So languages can work for you whatever your ambitions.

Arsène Wenger: Learning languages has taken me to places that I might never have gone to and helped me achieve the things I always wanted to.

Sir Trevor McDonald: Stick with it, it's never easy at first but it gives immense rewards years later.

Nicole Kidman: When you're learning any language, ... , the agility of your mind is what's interesting.

