Why should I learn English?

Reasons for improving your language skills

Dr. Sean Murphy
Questions about languages

• What’s the current world population?
• How many languages are there in the world?
• How many languages are endangered?
• How many universities in the world teach Catalan?
• Which language has
  • the most native speakers?
  • the most speakers in total?
Some answers

Source: https://www.ethnologue.com

• What’s the current world population?  
  Pop. clock

• How many languages are there in the world? 7,139

• How many languages are endangered? Approx. 3,000

• How many universities in the world teach Catalan? > 150
What is the most spoken language?

Source: https://www.ethnologue.com

Languages with the most native speakers, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Native Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin Chinese</td>
<td>800,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>400,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>200,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Languages with the most speakers, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Native Speakers</th>
<th>Other Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin Chinese</td>
<td>600,000,000</td>
<td>600,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>120,000,000</td>
<td>400,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>800,000,000</td>
<td>400,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How might English be useful for *me*?

At university

In my future career/professional life
How might English be useful for me at university?

• language learning improves cognitive skills, memory, creative thinking, first language skills, etc.

• understand terminology and course materials in English

• socialise with foreign students

• do an Erasmus scholarship

Dr. Sean Murphy
How might English be useful for me in my future career/professional life?

• getting a job – employers like multilingual candidates

• dealing with children and parents from other countries

• attending international conferences on teaching

• living and working abroad
But I don't like English!

Reasons

• Feel embarrassed
• Poor quality of classes at school
• Negative experience with a particular person
• Unrealistic expectations

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

Dr. Sean Murphy
Positive attitude!

How to improve your English

• Make mistakes! They are opportunities to learn
• Do dynamic, fun things
• Ask lots of questions
• Translanguage!
• Be realistic
Most effective ways to accelerate your English

Make a list of specific ideas for:

• **reading** (if you say 'I don't like reading', you have a problem!)

• **listening**