

Why Learn French

Why learn a foreign language?

Communication

- To be able to communicate with the people who speak it.
 - People you meet when traveling
 - People in your own community (French Canadians)
- The experience of traveling to another country will be greatly enhanced in both ease of communication and friendliness if you speak the language.
- Speaking another's language shows respect for that culture
- People in every country prefer it when tourists make an effort to speak the local language.
 - Even using simple phrases such as "bonjour" (hello) or "s'il vous plaît" (please) will be greatly appreciated.

Cultural understanding

- Speaking a new language helps you get to know another people and culture.

- Because language simultaneously defines and is defined by the world around us, learning another language opens one's mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world.
- When you speak another language, you can enjoy literature, film, and music in the original language.
 - Translations are rarely perfect replicas of the original.
 - The best way to understand what the author really meant is to read what the author actually wrote.

Business and careers

- Speaking more than language is a skill which will increase your marketability.
 - Schools and employers tend to prefer candidates who speak one or more foreign languages.
 - Even though English is widely spoken in much of the world, the fact is that the global economy depends on communication.
 - When dealing with France, for example, someone who speaks French will have an obvious advantage over someone who doesn't.

Language enhancement

- Learning another language can help you understand your own.
 - Many languages have contributed to the development of English.
 - Learning these languages will teach you where words and even grammatical structures are from, and augment your vocabulary to boot.
- Learning how another language differs from your own will increase your understanding of your own language.
 - For many people language is innate—we know how to say something, but we don't necessarily know why we say it.
 - Learning another language can change that.

Test scores

- As years of foreign language study increase, math and verbal SAT scores increase.
- Children who study a foreign language often have higher standardized test scores in math, reading, and language arts. (Admissions Testing Program of the College Board)
- Foreign language study can help to increase problem-solving skills, memory, and self-discipline.

Et enfin,

- Apprendre le français,
 - C'est cool!
 - C'est amusant!
 - Et, c'est chouette!!!!

Lawless, Laura K. Why Learn French. 2009. 20 Aug. 2009 <<http://french.about.com/od/francaphonie/a/whylearnfrench.htm>>.