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## 'burg Blogs : 2013 : 04 : 15 : Tips on Learning a Foreign Language

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## 'burg Blogs »

# Tips on Learning a Foreign Language

Posted April 15, 2013 at 11:09 am by [Raja Benchekroun, Fulbright Alumna](#)



Language learning

“I wish I spoke a foreign language..” It would be really interesting if everyone spoke a foreign language in fewer than 10 days, like you would see in those pop up ads on your screen.

Nothing comes easy, but the fact that foreign languages are an important element in our global village, is something we should consider. The more we connect with each other the stronger our curiosity grows in exploring each other’s culture and understanding what is said.

*No matter what your major is, a foreign language will absolutely add more chances to your career.*

I’ve heard many individuals complain “It’s too late for me to learn a foreign language” or “It’s hard , I just can’t do it”, “My major doesn’t require a foreign language, I don’t need to do it.” We all become less interested in learning any new language especially if people we are interested in speak ours, so why to bother?! We basically lie to ourselves by coming up with such excuses. We don’t need to be pushed to learn a language. No matter what your major is, a foreign language will absolutely add more chances to your career.

- Mass Communication
- Political Science
- Anthropology
- History

- Criminology
- Education
- Global and International Business
- Marketing
- Management



You don't have to do much, Search "The Importance of Foreign Languages in...( Major) " and you will get hundreds of results. You will be astonished by your discoveries, like that most of the US presidents were multilingual, Thomas Jefferson claimed to read and write six languages.

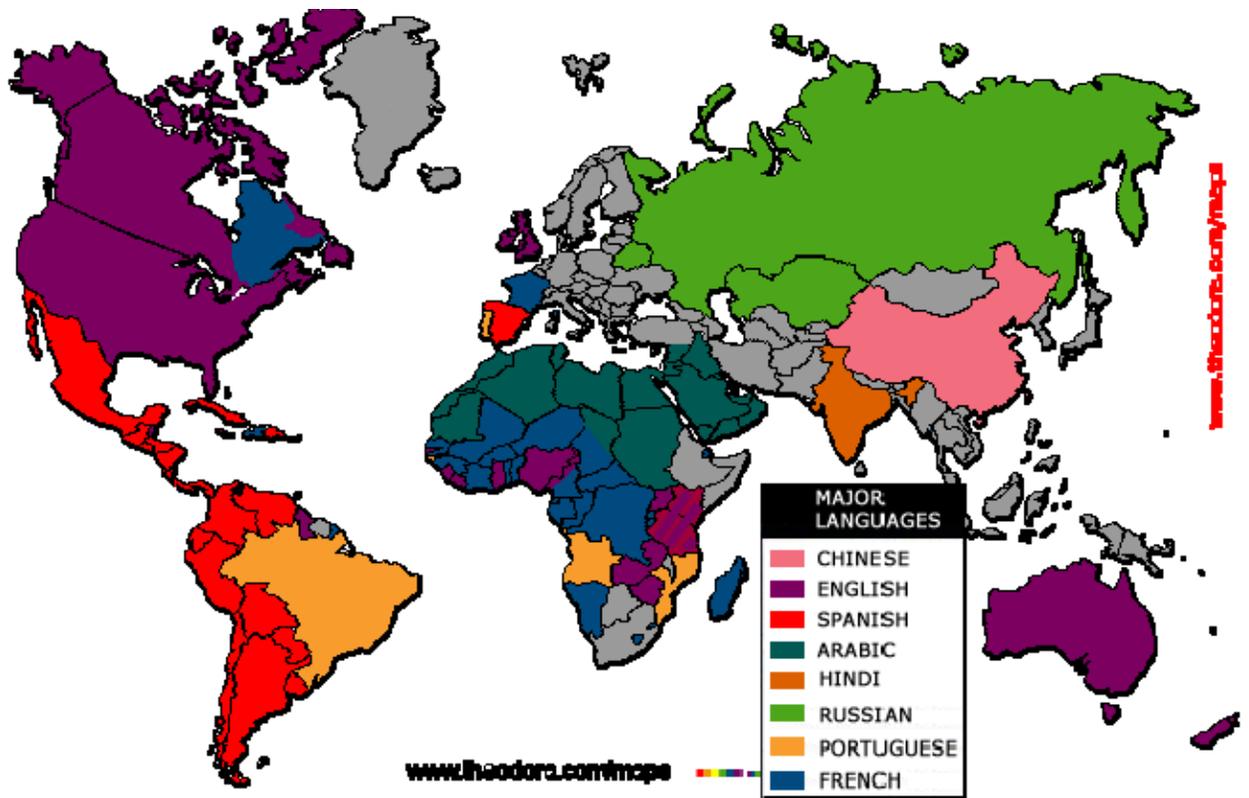
In learning a foreign language you will go through many stages to reach a decent level of acquisition. Throughout your learning experience, there will be times when you would feel frustrated because you don't understand what your language instructor is saying, and other times when you would feel you are progressing, all you have to do is accept the challenge and work your way through it, by planning things right.



- Choose the language you feel more motivated to learn, if you have no interest in the language you are learning, it will slow the pace of your learning, and you might end up giving up.
- Know what kind of a [learning style](#) you have. Are you more visual, auditory, linguistic...
- Be open to the culture of the language, meaning the more you get closer to the culture of the language the more you learn about its usage. Language and culture always go together.
- Enroll in a language class. This will help you connect with other individuals who share the same interest in a more organized learning environment.

After you organize your choices, decide what language you want to learn, then you can start building a Study Plan, which will help you organize what to learn first and what to avoid in order to not overwhelm yourself. Remember that if you build a strong foundation, everything will start flowing smoothly.

- Start by learning how to say your name and write it, especially if the language you are learning doesn't have Latin letters, then you will definitely want to see how your name looks like in a different language.
- Start learning the Alphabet, just be comfortable in writing the letters, we all doodle on our notebooks sometimes, well writing foreign letters at first will look like doodling lines. Watch YouTube videos and Google some texts to look at the letters, it's like training your visual skills to be able to recognize what you write.
- Before you master writing the entire alphabet, it will be helpful to learn new words as you go. You don't have to learn how they are written, but at least get familiar with the foreign sounds of the language and sharpen your auditory skills.
- Learn new words every day, two, three or five. They say that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, well with languages "A Word a Day keeps the Teacher Away"
- Technology is fascinating, especially with foreign languages, there are many free applications that you can download to your device. Pick one that you like and use it. We spend more time on checking our Facebook, or read others' statuses; it will be more beneficial if we nourish our brains with new vocabulary and expressions.
- The list of tips could go on, because the fun of learning a foreign language makes you linguistically creative, at a certain stage of your learning, you will look back at all those challenges and say to yourself that it was worth it, you will build your own learning style, you will be more motivated and proud of yourself when you are put in situations where speaking a foreign language would save your life.
- Give yourself the chance to speak a foreign language and the joy you will feel is priceless. Don't deprive yourself from being linguistically competent in a foreign language, it will pay off.



### About the blogger



Hi ! or Salamu Alaykum in Arabic. I'm a Fulbright Alumna, passionate about foreign languages and cultures. I am currently joining USFSP as a graduate international student in the the MLA program. Enjoying my journey of Teaching Arabic as a foreign language.