



Why do we need to learn another language?

It is estimated that there are between 6000 and 7000 languages in the world. We all know that learning a language is hard work, despite all the inventions and techniques that are currently available. And while some languages may be simpler and more learner-friendly, others – like Mandarin or Japanese – pose a great challenge for students, and even for native speakers. So why should we bother trying to learn a second, a third or, perhaps a seventh language? We already speak one language. Can we just not put it through Google translate? As it turns out, learning languages can bring us a huge number of benefits, not only in terms of intellectual development, but also professional development and practicality.

First and foremost, learning languages is beneficial for our brains. As we learn new structures and grammatical rules, our brain adapts to accommodate new knowledge, thus increasing its processing capacity. This, in turn, might improve our memory, attention, and, as studies suggest, decision-making ability. With greater flexibility of our minds comes the ability to work in new – sometimes surprising and challenging conditions.

Cultural motivation is just as compelling. Through a language we learn about another culture and achieve a better understanding of the people around us and cultures other

than ours. By acquiring a new language we also acquire a new perspective of looking at the world, sometimes intriguingly different from ours. Even a simple question about the colour of traffic light can produce a significantly different answer. For us it's obviously green, but for the Japanese it is blue. This is definitely a good training for learners who want to operate and interact globally, within the context of multicultural community.

We must also remember that a new language equips us with a very different set of non-linguistic skills – soft skills. They not only facilitate intercultural communication, but when combined with cultural knowledge, give us a huge advantage in professional life and can be a boost to every career.

Learning another language can also improve an academic career. English, for instance, is a means of communication in a number of fields (such as science, technology, engineering or linguistics) and academic exchange. Learning English gives us access to a vast repository of knowledge and research in international academic communities.

However, we do not need an academic or business reason to learn a language. We can be driven by the need to survive at our holiday destination or to understand our favourite song. The effort you put into learning at least basics

will definitely pay off when you are able to order a meal or go shopping without any assistance.

So whether you learn a language for intellectual, professional or purely pragmatic reasons, the advantages are in-

disputable. Learning another language gives us skills, opportunities and hopefully also curiosity to learn even more.



CENTRE OF LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION

The upcoming academic year is going to be incredibly eventful at Centre of Languages and Communication (CLC) at Poznan University of Technology (PUT), and rich in activities and events related to teaching and promoting foreign languages.

Teaching languages for specific purposes is our main focus, but we always strive to offer more. Our teachers working in teams offer support in a wide range of areas: from soft

skills, through academic writing, e-learning, commercial courses and certificate examinations, including ACERT, BULATS and LCCI. To promote language learning and to challenge students we organize Foreign Languages Day and the prestigious National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities. We do not, however, neglect foreign exchange students, as we give them the opportunity to learn about Polish culture during Polish Week.

However the most important event is going to be the 65th anniversary of Centre of Languages and Communication. A significant part of the anniversary is going to be a conference, held in May 2018.

Centre of Languages and Communication has got a significant international presence, as we are actively engaged in cooperation and staff exchange with a number of universities and academic centres.

MEET YOUR TEACHERS



Ewa Kapałczyńska, M.A.

Head of German and Russian Section

A graduate of the Institute of German Studies and post-graduate studies Social psychology in practice. I actively participate in Goethe-Institut workshops in Poland and abroad. In 2014/2015 I had the opportunity to coordinate a "UNI-CLILiG Polen" project at CLC. I teach German for specific purposes, but I also prepare materials for the e-learning Moodle platform. I'm very much interested in educational neuroscience and alternative teaching methods. Working with students always brings me joy. I love playing tennis in my free time.



Małgorzata Bączyńska, M.A.

English Lecturer

My adventure with PUT started about 6 years ago and during that time I've been lucky enough to meet and work with people I like and students I adore. I am a passionate backpack traveller and street photographer (thanks God I still have some corners of the world to discover), modern architecture freak fan and patient long-distance runner. If you miss my voice, you can always hear me on Radio Afera in my "Chit Chat from around the World" program on each Tuesday and Thursday at 5.30 p.m. Stay tuned :-)

Sounds **English**?

Present day English vocabulary is rich and diversified. Over the ages of its development it has acquired numerous influences from other languages of the world. And words we use every day may turn out to be foreign in their origin. Look at the examples and try guessing which language they come from. The answers may be surprising.

- A.** If you want to grab a quick lunch with friends, a **café** is the best option.
B. Our daughter is going to turn 5 next year, so we've been trying to find a good **kindergarten** for her.
C. Something is wrong with my computer – but it could be just a **glitch** in the operating system.
D. It was very hot today, so we decided to have a breakfast out on the **patio**.
E. Her behaviour when she greeted the Turkish ambassador was a terrible **faux pas**. Fortunately, she apologized profusely.
F. You really have to try the beef sandwiches at the corner **deli** – it's the best one in town.
G. My brother really loves **karaoke**, although everyone says he can't sing and is tone deaf.
H. Elon Musk, the man who started SpaceX and Tesla Motors, is one of the most famous **entrepreneurs** in the world.
I. It is not the facts **per se** that are important, but their interpretation.
J. You can buy newspapers at a small **kiosk** near the Grand Central.
K. I hate **schmoozing** the rich old people at the fundraisers, but I have to if I want to secure funding for my science projects.
L. The 2014 Haiyan **typhoon** that hit the Philippines was one of the biggest ones ever recorded.

From French: _____

From Japanese: _____

From Persian: _____

From Chinese: _____

From Yiddish: _____

From Spanish: _____

From German: _____

From Latin: _____

KEY: From French: A, E, H // From Persian: J // From Yiddish: C, K // From German: B, F // From Japanese: G // From Chinese: L // From Spanish: D // From Latin: I