



# Facts on Languages



According to the Telegraph, Army officers are being told they will not rise above the rank of Captain without learning a foreign language. Also, the Army offers £10,000 to new recruits who have an A-level in a modern foreign language.

At least 65% of the world's population is bilingual or plurilingual.

A new word in the English language is created about every 98 minutes.

According to the Middlebury languages website, bilingual children showed a statistically significant increase in mathematical creativity (that is code for thinking outside the box) as early as 45.4 months. That's less than four years old.

According to the Middlebury languages website, a group of 60 bilingual students were studied alongside 60 of their monolingual peers. The research found a noticeable difference in the level of detail and richness in descriptions by the bilingual students - proof that they think more colourfully.

One language dies every two weeks!

According to the CBI, the languages most in demand by businesses in the UK last year, were French, German and Spanish.

Most European languages belong to three broad groups: Germanic, Romance and Slavic.

Around 75% of the world's population do not speak a word of English and a grasp of a different language improves your ability to use your first language and explore other cultures more successfully.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."

- Nelson Mandela

Sources:

BBC languages, Middlebury interactive languages, The Telegraph, The Official Site of European Day of Languages and Colegau Cymru.



