

Français or Español?

Who should study a foreign language?

There are a few easy answers to that question:

1. Everyone who is interested in learning a new language and culture, and who has at least a "C" average in eighth-grade English.
2. Everyone who hopes to go on to college. At the present time, most four-year colleges and universities require at least 2 years of a foreign language for admission. Some of the more prestigious universities require at least three years.
3. Everyone who wishes to try for an honors diploma. An honors diploma requires three years of one foreign language or two years of two different foreign languages.
4. Everyone who wants to be well-educated. Knowledge of a second language will greatly increase your cultural awareness, your vocabulary, and your understanding of the structure of language.

Which language should you choose?

There is not an easy answer to this question, but here are some ideas you should consider:

1. Do you know any native speakers of French or Spanish? If you do, learning to communicate with them in their native language could be a very rewarding experience.
2. Is there any Spanish or French in your family background? If there is, it would be interesting to learn more about the language and culture of your ancestors.
3. Do you plan to travel or work in other countries some day? It would be helpful (sometimes vital) to know the language that is spoken there.
4. Which language is easier? There is very little difference in difficulty between French and Spanish. Both are considered "easy" languages by the U.S. Department of Defense, but both require consistent study.

Are there other considerations?

Yes. These facts might be helpful:

1. Knowledge of a foreign language can be very helpful in business. Ohio's number-one trading partner is Canada, where English and French are the official languages. Japan is the number-two partner, and France ranks number three.
2. The Spanish-speaking population is growing in the United States, even in Marion County.
3. Jobs that might require the use of French: Travel, tourism industries, food service (most of the great chefs are familiar with French cuisine); international business dealing with France, Canada, or African countries; diplomacy, acting, fashion.
4. Jobs that might require the use of Spanish: diplomacy, medicine, social work, and business dealing with Spain or Latin America.

Career Opportunities

Your knowledge of Spanish will also be an asset to you in a wide variety of careers. Many companies from Spain and Latin America are multinational and have branches around the world, including the United States. Many U.S. corporations have great exposure in the Spanish-speaking countries. With the growth of the Hispanic population in the United States, bilingualism is becoming an important asset in many fields including retail, fashion, cosmetics, pharmaceutical,

agriculture, automotive, tourism, airlines, technology, finance, and accounting.

You can use your Spanish in all these fields, not only abroad but also in the United States. On the national scene there are innumerable possibilities in medical and hospital services, banking and finance, law, social work, and law enforcement. The opportunities are limitless.

Language Link

Another benefit to learning Spanish is that it will improve your English. Once you know another language, you can make comparisons between the two and gain a greater understanding of how languages function. You'll also come across a number of Spanish words that are used in English. Just a few examples are: **adobe, corral, meseta, rodeo, poncho, canyon, llama, alpaca**. Spanish will also be helpful if you decide to learn yet another language. Once you learn a second language, the learning process for acquiring other languages becomes much easier.

Spanish is a beautiful, rich language spoken on many continents. Whatever your motivation is for choosing to study it, Spanish will expand your horizons and increase your job opportunities. ¡Viva el español!



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Study Hints for Language Students

- A. You have to memorize. Memorization is the main task in learning a new language.
1. Memorize short phrases or sentences rather than individual words alone.
 2. Learn the ideas, not just the words.
- B. Make the fullest possible use of your class time.
1. Pay attention in class. This will make your work outside class seem much easier.
 2. When the teacher is explaining or someone else is reciting, listen and think about what they are saying. Do not heave a sigh of relief and "tune out" when you are not reciting. Respond mentally to each comment and question and conduct a sort of mental dialogue on the subject matter if you are not actually involved in an oral dialogue with teacher or classmates.
- C. Language learning means habit development.
1. By listening to your teacher and imitating him or her (aloud or silently), you improve your speech habits. Try to imitate your teacher's pronunciation and speech patterns and, in so doing, form the necessary habits that will make you a successful language student.
 2. By studying and reading aloud when you are alone, you develop good pronunciation habits and language fluency.
- D. Homework is a "must"—but there are tactics that make it easier and more effective.
1. Divide your homework material into small units if you find it hard going. Work about 10 to 15 minutes on it; do something else for a while, then return to your language assignment. Be sure you return to it!
 2. Do your homework when it is assigned. Do not expect to turn in several late assignments in a batch. Homework is part of the learning/practicing process. The homework "document" in itself is not the important thing (although your teacher may insist on its looking good and being correct).

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