

European Day of Languages



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European Day of Languages

At the initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the European Day of Languages is celebrated every year across the EU, in order to celebrate linguistic diversity in Europe and encourage language learning.



The general objectives of the European Day of Languages are:

- Promoting the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe, which must be preserved and fostered;
- Alerting the public to the importance of language learning and diversifying the range of languages learnt in order to increase plurilingualism and intercultural understanding;
- Encouraging lifelong language learning in and out of school, whether for study purposes, for professional needs, for purposes of mobility or for pleasure and exchanges.

Language facts

Did you know that...

- There are between 6000 and 7000 languages in the world - spoken by 7 billion people divided into 189 independent states.
- There are about 225 indigenous languages in Europe - roughly 3% of the world's total.
- Most of the world's languages are spoken in Asia and Africa.
- At least half of the world's population are bilingual or plurilingual, i.e. they speak two or more languages.
- In their daily lives, Europeans increasingly come across foreign languages. There is a need to generate a greater interest in languages among European citizens.
- Many languages have 50.000 words or more, but individual speakers normally know and use only a fraction of the total vocabulary: in everyday conversation people use the same few hundred words.

The 10 Most Spoken Languages In The World

1. CHINESE: 1197 million

2. SPANISH: 399 million

3. ENGLISH: 335 million

4. HINDI: 260 million

5. ARABIC: 242 million

6. PORTUGUESE: 203 million

7. BENGALI: 189 million

8. RUSSIAN: 166 million

9. JAPANESE: 128 million

10. LAHND: 88.7 million

CIAO
 NI HAO
 SALUTON
 merhaba
 hej!
 bonjour
 salqam
 namaste
 BOK
 salve
 HELLO!
 hej
 nei ho
 GUTEN TAG
 konnichiwa
 aloha
 HOLA
 selam
 Zdravo



Languages are fun!



You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you only live once.

(Czech proverb)

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

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.
Ludwig Wittgenstein