

FULL EDIT SAMPLE

7 Advantages That Make Learning a New Language Worth Your Time

Role: Copyeditor

Project type: Commissioned portfolio sample

Scope: Structural and line editing, rewriting, copyediting, fact-checking, and style/voice consistency.

Before: View the [original](#) before editing.

After: View edited piece below.

7 Advantages That Make Learning a New Language Worth Your Time

As the world becomes increasingly globalized, speaking more than one language can be a valuable skill for communicating, working, and building connections across cultures.

Learning a language, however, is a journey, not a destination.

No one will likely approach you and tell you that learning a language is simple. But that's because it isn't. It has never been easy. In fact, anyone who tells you otherwise is either lying or trying to sell you something.

Despite the numerous challenges, learning a new language is always worthwhile. For example, it may help you communicate and connect with others more effectively, while offering many other personal and professional benefits.

With that in mind, we'll explore some advantages of learning a new language.

1. Advance Your Career and Access International Business

Proficiency in another language can give a significant competitive edge in the current job market by setting you apart, particularly for positions where employers need multilingual employees.

Many employers value professionals who can communicate effectively with customers and clients in both domestic and international markets.

Knowing another language could qualify you for positions that require multilingual communication, and you may be useful to organizations serving international customers.

Source: <https://www.actfl.org/advocacy-and-public-education/making-languages-our-business>

2. Exercise Your Brain

Learning and using another language engages a range of cognitive processes, including attention, memory, language processing, and pattern recognition; though research on whether bilingualism produces broader cognitive advantages remains mixed.

Learning a language also requires learners to recall vocabulary and apply grammatical rules, providing regular practice in retrieving and using newly acquired information.

That mental workout doesn't stop at recall. The moment you're mid-sentence and two grammatical rules, or two languages, are competing for the same slot in your head, you're not just retrieving information anymore. You're managing it.

Sources: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29494195/>; <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42113205/>

3. Practice Managing Competing Information

Bilingual speakers regularly manage multiple linguistic systems, and researchers have studied the cognitive-control processes it takes to pick the right one in the moment. Every time you speak, your brain has to hold onto more than one language and actively decide which words, sounds, and grammar rules to let through while keeping the other system from taking over. That's a constant background task most monolingual speakers never have to run.

Research conducted at Pennsylvania State University shows that people who can easily switch between language systems have practiced this demanding brain work extensively, and it gets easier with practice.

All that mental juggling adds up to something you can actually feel: the moment you order coffee in your new language without translating in your head first, or catch a joke before the subtitles do. That's not just brain training anymore. That's a win.

Source: <https://www.psu.edu/news/research/story/think-twice-speak-once-bilinguals-process-both-languages>

4. Build a Sense of Accomplishment

The process of learning a new language requires taking risks and pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone. Most language learners can attest to the fair share of mistakes they made along the way, sometimes even in front of people.

It can be scary at first since it's breaking you out of your shell again and again.

But that's exactly where the payoff comes from. Learning a new word, holding your first real conversation, understanding something without translating it in your head—each one is a small win, and they add up to something that feels genuinely earned.

And accomplishment has a way of making you bolder. Once you've survived the awkward mistakes, you're a lot more willing to actually use the language with real people.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0346251X20307260>

5. Expand Your Communication and Networking Opportunities

Opening up to a new language also creates opportunities to communicate with people from different cultures. This can help you better understand other people's perspectives and the cultural context behind them.

That broader perspective can improve how you interact with people in this globally connected world, which is a very useful skill if you work in multinational companies or have coworkers from other countries.

Conversations, collaborations, and connections that used to be off-limits because of a language barrier are suddenly open to you, whether that's a coworker abroad, a client, or someone you meet at a conference.

That same ability to connect with people doesn't stay confined to the office. It travels with you, literally.

6. Make Travel Easier and More Rewarding

Many tourist attractions run on English, but that doesn't mean the rest of the country does. Therefore, you might have a hard time getting by if you don't know the local language. So, if you visit a foreign country where the language you've learned is widely spoken, it can improve the quality of your experience on the trip.

You could navigate outside that tourist bubble and interact with the people and region in ways that are often unavailable to those who don't!

7. Deepen Your Connection to Other Cultures

Learning a new language gives you a direct link to other cultures since it exposes you to different cultural concepts, expressions, traditions, religions, arts, and perspectives that aren't always directly translatable.

Also, engaging with another language can expose learners to perspectives and cultural contexts beyond their own.

In fact, research shows that studying another language from a young age may encourage positive attitudes toward language learning and, when cultural/intercultural content is included, can foster openness toward other cultures, but little research has established exactly how.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0898589815000637>

As we've seen, there are advantages that come with learning a new language. But this is just the tip of the iceberg; there are more reasons language learning is worth it.

And, like most great rewards, it will be worth the trials. You'll stumble, you'll mix up words in front of people, but none of that lasts. In the end, you'll look back and smile once you become proficient.

So, what are you waiting for? Your next language is one hello away.