

Language learning: facts and myths

The world is becoming more and more global: we are getting connected more than ever and for the first time in history we can communicate with almost everybody. With emoticons and short video apps such as snapchat it is easier than ever before. However, communication is not only based on graphics but also on the most basic tool humans develop to talk to one another: the language. And if you want to be a part of a “global village”, at one point you may need to learn a new language. Here are some facts and myths about the entire process.



1. Learning a new language is expensive. Myth!

Let's face it: If you want to surround yourself with expensive dictionaries, encyclopedias, foreign books and if you plan to visit countries where that language is spoken at least once a week, then maybe you will have to spend that money. But if you really want to learn a new language, you have a tool right in front of you: a computer with an Internet connection. There are plenty of free online learning platforms. Plus, you can listen to native speakers' pronunciations on YouTube. There are youtubers who even teach language online, such as English with Lucy (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz4tgANd4yy8Oe0iXCdSWfA>). All for the price of your Internet access.

2. I am too old to learn something new, especially a language. Myth!

Whoever told you only a child can learn something new is terribly wrong. As long as you are willing to learn there is nothing to stop you! You can always adjust the pace of learning to your own tempo. Who said that you have to learn everything in a week? Baby steps are still going to move you forward. It is all up to you.

3. I can take only a written course and still be fluent. Myth!

Well, not quite. Language is a complex system that not only requires a theory, but pretty much also a bit of practice. You can learn grammar and vocabulary, but you will always need to speak up. That is why it is a good idea to learn the language with native speakers. The proper pronunciation of the language is vital for proper learning. Don't have a fellow native speaker to talk to? You can always find one on Youtube and listen to that person in addition to your language learning.

4. Why would I learn a language if everybody speaks English? Myth!

It may seem so, but according to language specialists, only 20% of the world population speak this language. Well, that doesn't sound like a majority! That is why it is still a good idea to learn a different language. Why don't you try Spanish, French or even Chinese? Wouldn't it be great to visit a foreign country and be able to speak their language?

(MW)