Why Learn A World Language?

- In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.
- According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you boost decision-making skills.
- Students who study world languages score higher on standardized tests as a study from York University in Toronto showed.
- Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.
- Knowledge of a world language increases your chances of landing a good job, as demonstrated in a recent poll in The Economist.
- An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of $128,000 more over their lifetimes.
- Learning a second language has compelling health benefits - a study from York University in Toronto connects the prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.
Thailand is a country located in Southeast Asia and is approximately the same size as France, Spain, or Texas. Each region in Thailand has unique cultural, historical, and natural attractions. The northern region is a nice place for a journey into hills, while the islands and beaches in the south are great for scuba diving.

Learning Thai can make travel and study in Thailand significantly more rewarding and help you discover why its capital, Bangkok, is one of the top destinations for world tourism.

Basic knowledge of Thai will be useful for those who are interested in some of Thailand's most famous exports, including Thai cooking, traditional Thai massage, and Thai boxing (Muay Thai).

In terms of business and job opportunities, a good command of Thai is also highly beneficial, as the United States is an important trading partner of Thailand and many international trading companies operate in Thailand.

If you are looking for an Asian language less commonly known in USA and worth taking your effort to study, don’t hesitate to consider studying Thai!

Who speaks Thai?

Thai is the official language of Thailand, and is spoken by approximately 67 million people. According to the 2010 U.S. census, there are approximately 200,000 Thai-Americans, with close to 67,000 of them living in California.

Famous People of Thai Descent

- Chang and Eng Bunker - Siamese twins
- Tammy Duckworth - politician and military officer
- Vanessa-Mae - violinist
- David Usher - musician
- Tiger Woods - professional golfer

Why Study Thai?

- **Hello / Good-bye:** สวัสดีครับ/ค่ะ (sa-wàt dìi khráp/khâ)
- **Nice to meet you:** ยินดีที่ได้รู้จักครับ/ค่ะ (yin-dìi thîi dâay rúu-câk khráp/khâ)
- **How are you?** สบายดีไหมครับ/คะ (sa-baay-dìi máy khráp/khâ)
- **I am fine. And you?** สบายดีครับ/ค่ะ แล้วคุณล่ะครับ/คะ (sa-baay-dìi khráp/khâ lɛ́ɛw khun lâ khráp/khá)
- **Thank you:** ขอบคุณครับ/ค่ะ (khɔ̀p-khun khráp/khâ)
- **You’re welcome:** ไม่เป็นไรครับ/ค่ะ (mây-pên-ray khráp/khâ)
- **Excuse me / Sorry / Apology:** ขอโทษครับ/ค่ะ (khɔ̃̄ɔ̃̄ thôot khráp/khâ)

Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

- Akan/Twi
- American Sign Lang
- Arabic
- Avestan
- Azerbaijani
- Baranani
- Bengali
- Bosnian/Croatian/
- Norwegian
- Serbian
- Catalan
- Chinese
- Czech
- Dari
- Dutch
- Egyptian (Demotic)
- Egyptian (Middle)
- ESL
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Georgian
- German
- German (Old High)
- Greek (Classical)
- Greek (Modern)
- Haitian Creole
- Hausa
- Hebrew (Biblical)
- Hebrew (Modern)
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kazakh
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Kyrgyz
- Lakota
- Latin
- Macedonian
- Malaysian
- Mandarin
- Malay
- Maori
- Marathi
- Marshallese
- Mazanderani
- Miao
- Micronesian
- Minski
- Miran
- Mohawk
- Mongolian
- Norwegian
- Old Church Slavonic
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Romanian
- Russian
- Sanskrit
- Scots
- Serbo-Croatian
- Shona
- Sichuan
- Sindhi
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Tamil
- Tagalog
- Telugu
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Uzbek
- Wolof
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu