Why Learn A World Language?

- In an increasingly globalized world, 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 of 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, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.
In terms of sheer utility, French is useful the world over. It comes in second after English as the world’s most-frequently taught language for second language learners. French is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and is spoken on every continent. The organization that represents French-speaking countries - the International Organization of Francophonie - has 54 member states and governments. Of these, 29 have French as an official language. The estimated number of French-speakers in the world is close to one billion! It is increasingly true that French and English are the only truly global languages.

Who Speaks French?
French is spoken as a first language in France, southern Belgium, western Switzerland, Monaco, the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, some parts of Ontario, Canada, and even parts of the U.S., namely Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Outside of Western Europe and North America, French is also used among educated classes in Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, French Polynesia, Ghana, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Thailand, Uruguay, and Vietnam.

Famous Americans of French Descent
- Jessica Alba - actress
- Sara Bareilles - singer
- Warren Buffett - business magnate, investor, philanthropist
- Jim Carrey - actor
- Louis Chevrolet - co-founder of Chevrolet along with William C. Durant
- Ellen DeGeneres - actress, talk-show host
- Alexis F. du Pont - founder of U.S. Airways
- Jean-Louis Gassée - founder of Be Inc.
- Ray Lamontagne - American singer
- Bill Nye - also known as “Bill Nye the Science Guy,” an American television program host, science educator, mechanical engineer
- William Taft - 27th President of the United States
- Harry Truman - 33rd President of the United States
- Norbert Rilleaux - inventor & engineer

Why Study French?
Languages
Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

- Akan/Twi
- American Sign Lang
- Arabic
- Avestan
- Azerbaijani
- Bamana
- Bengali
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- Serbian
- Old Church Slavonic
- 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
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Kyrgyz
- Latin
- Macedonian
- Mongolian
- Norwegian
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Romanian
- Russian
- Sanskrit
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Tajik
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Turkish (Ottoman)
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Uzbek
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu

Learn these everyday phrases!
- Welcome: Bienvenue
- Hello (General greeting): Bonjour (formal) Salut (informal)
- How are you?: Comment allez-vous? (formal)
- Reply to ‘How are you?’: Ça va bien, merci. Et vous? (formal)
- Pleased to meet you: Enchanté
- Long time no see: Ça fait longtemps!
- Morning/Afternoon greeting: Bonjour
- Evening greeting: Bonsoir
- Nighttime parting phrase: Bonne nuit