Why Learn A World Language?

- In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an personal skill important not only for individual 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, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.

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For more information regarding Majors, Minors, courses, and other available resources in this language:

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Studying Haitian Creole will be beneficial to students who would like to pursue a career in a non-profit field, Anthropology, Haitian history, and service-learning courses. Haitian Creole is an essential means of communication for professionals in the fields of education and health and social services in Haiti. The language will also improve cultural knowledge of the Haitian people and their customs.

Who speaks Haitian Creole?
The Haitian Creole Language is spoken by over 10 million people, both in Haiti and around the world in many communities of the diaspora. Often stereotyped as a bastardized form of French, there are many who are unaware of the richness of the language, and the complex and expressive ways in which it is used. Its structure and grammar are based on Fon gbè, a West African family of languages that is still spoken today in Benin, Togo, and parts of Ghana and Nigeria. Its phonetics (sounds) are based on French, so the majority of its vocabulary is French in origin.

It is often called simply “creole” or “kreyòl”, and is one of Haiti’s two official languages, along with French. Haitian Creole is the first language of 90-95% of Haitians. It is a language based largely on 18th-century French with some influences from Portuguese, Aramaic, Spanish, Taino, and West African languages.

Famous People of Haitian Descent
◆ Hurby Azor - music producer
◆ Garcelle Beauvais - actress, singer, model
◆ Jean-Claude Brizard - former chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools
◆ Donna Denizé - poet and an award-winning teacher
◆ Jason Derulo - singer, songwriter
◆ Wyclef Jean - rapper, musician, actor
◆ Monique Péan - fine jewelry designer
◆ Harve Pierre - writer, singer and producer
◆ Jean Baptiste Point du Sable - founder of the City of Chicago
◆ Zoe Saldana - actress
◆ Mona Scott-Young - CEO of multi-media entertainment company Monami Entertainment
◆ Dumarsais Simeus - businessman

Why Study Haitian Creole?

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
- 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
- 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: Byen venu or V byenvini
◆ Hello (General greeting): Bonjou
◆ How are you?: Koman ou ye?
◆ Long time no see: Sa fè lontan / Sa fe lon temps nou pa we
◆ Where are you from?: Ki kote ou sòti? Kote ou sòti?
◆ I’m from ___: M’soti ___
◆ Morning greeting(s): Bonjou; Bon maten
◆ Afternoon greeting(s): Bon aprè-midi
◆ Evening greeting(s): Bonswa
◆ Nighttime parting phrase(s): Bònn nui / Bonswa / Bonswa et bon rev
◆ Pleased to meet you: Anchante / M’kontan fè konesans ou