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.
Learning Spanish will enable you to keep pace with Hispanic influence on culture, which is strong and getting stronger. Spanish is becoming more and more important with regards to business. Learning Spanish will enable you to better communicate with Spanish speaking employees or co-workers. In North America, Hispanic consumers are the fastest-growing market segment. As for job opportunities, it certainly wouldn't hurt to have Spanish on your résumé. In the United States, knowing Spanish can be particularly helpful if you work in healthcare or education. Increasingly, the building trades are employing more and more Spanish speaking workers. It is also great to have knowledge of Spanish when you travel because there are millions of people who speak Spanish in the world.

Who Speaks Spanish?
Spanish is a Romance language that evolved from Latin and the Castile region of Spain. Approximately 470 million people speak Spanish as a native language, making it second only to Mandarin in terms of its number of native speakers worldwide. There are an estimated 548 million speakers of Spanish as a first or second language, including speakers with limited competence and 20 million students of Spanish as a foreign language. Spanish is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, and it is used as an official language by the European Union, the Organization of American States, and the Union of South American Nations, as well as many other international organizations.

Famous People of Hispanic Descent
- David Archuleta - singer
- Luis W. Alvarez - Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- Mabel Alvarez - prominent American artist
- Anderson Cooper - TV news reporter
- Cameron Diaz - actress
- Salma Hayek - actress
- Rita Hayworth - actress and icon
- Enrique Iglesias - Grammy-winning singer/songwriter
- Frank Lorenzo - founder of Continental Airlines
- Michael Lopez-Alegria - astronaut

Learn these everyday phrases!
- Welcome:
  - **Bienvenido** (singular masculine)
  - **Bienvenidos** (plural masculine or mixed-gender)
- What's your name?:
  - **Cómo se llama usted?** (formal singular)
- My name is ____:
  - **Mi nombre es ____**
- Pleased to meet you:
  - **Mucho gusto / Encantado** (singular masculine)
- Morning greeting:
  - **Buenos días**
- Afternoon greeting:
  - **Buenas tardes**
- Evening greeting(s):
  - **Buenas tardes / Buenas noches**
- Nighttime parting phrase:
  - **Buenas noches**