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 the recent poll in The Economist showed.

  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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For students of comparative linguistics and sociolinguistics, a study of Yorùbá can help yield astounding results through an examination of the various changes and differences that occur between the language and the culture in the home-base on the one hand and the diaspora on the other. Students of African literatures would also benefit from studying Yorùbá language, literature and culture. Furthermore, Yorùbá is one of the most studied and researched African languages. There are already two volumes of Yorùbá Meta language, and Yorùbá is now being used for serious academic discourses such as Masters and Ph.D. Degree theses in some parts of Africa. Its importance as an African language cannot be overemphasized. Between the number of people for whom Yorùbá is a primary language and its political, cultural, and social importance within Africa, the ability to speak Yorùbá plays a crucial role in maintaining and developing the United States' economic and diplomatic relations with Yorùbá speaking areas.

The African Languages Minor also permits students to reach proficiency in one of the languages offered at Indiana University (such as Yorùbá), gain social and cultural knowledge related to the language, and receive an introduction to African linguistics or pragmatics. This Minor is awarded through Linguistics.

Who speaks Yorùbá?
Yorùbá is the first language of approximately 30 million West Africans, and is spoken by populations in Southwestern Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Sierra Leone. It is also one of the prominent languages and cultures of the African diaspora. Consequently, it still has an impact on the social, cultural and religious lives of millions of people in countries outside Africa, such as Brazil, Venezuela, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti. Yorùbá culture, which centers around religion, is one of the surviving African elements in these countries. This is apparent in cases such as the Orisa tradition, a syncretic religion based in Brazil, as well as in other religious practices in the United States and elsewhere.

Famous People of Yorùbá Descent
- Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje - actor and model
- Jarome Iginla - professional ice hockey player
- Henry Olusegun Adeola Samuel (Seal) - singer
- Tiwa Savage - singer-songwriter, recording artist, performer and actress
- Wole Soyinka - poet, playwright, Nobel Prize winner

Why Study Yorùbá?
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
- Catalán
- 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
- Old Church Slavonic
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Russian
- Sanskrit
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Tajik
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Turkish (Ottoman)
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Uzbek
- Wolof
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu

Learn these everyday phrases!
- Welcome: Ẹ káábọ
- Hello (General greeting): Báwo ni?
- What’s your name?: Ki ni orúkọ rè?
- My name is: Orúkọ mi ni
- Pleased to meet you: Inú mi dùn láti mọ ọ́
- Morning greeting: Ẹ kááárọ
- Afternoon greeting: Ẹ kàásán
- Evening greeting(s): Ẹ kùùrọ̀lẹ́
- How are you?: Sé dáádáá ni?
- I’m fine, thanks. And you?: Dáádáá ni, o ẹ́. Ìwo ńkọ́?
- Long time no see: Ó tó ọ́jó métà.