



## More than words: Real Life Stories

**1. What is your name and what course are you studying?**

Isabelle Hatton-Williams, I am a student at the University of Manchester studying French and Japanese.

**2. What languages do you speak (native and additional languages)?**

I speak English (maternally) and French (paternally), although I am only verbally fluent in French so am studying it to reach a native proficiency. I am also learning Japanese and can get by conversationally in Spanish!

**3. When did you decide to learn another language and why?**

I've been learning French from my dad my whole life, but started to really apply myself to it around when I turned 15, because I realised the joy in being able to meet people from different countries and backgrounds (and found a love for travelling!

**4. How has being able to speak more than one language helped you in your personal life?**

I have made so many friends across France, which has led to free travel and also new experiences and friendships I would never get to experience in England. I have met so many different people I would never have been able to before.

**5. What has been the most impactful thing about learning a language on your life to date?**

Definitely the freedom of having friends in France. I have been so much more enriched!

**6. What is your favourite foreign language word or phrase and why?**

猫をかぶる (neko wo kaburu) to wear a cat in Japanese! It means to hide your bad side.

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**7. Is there another language you would like to learn?**

I think Japanese is enough for me!  
I wish I could speak better Spanish because of all the amazing travel opportunities it would give me.

**8. If you could give one piece of advice to students thinking about learning another language, what would it be?**

Immerse yourself in your target language as much as you possibly can! Having friends, watching films, and if possible, visiting the country, help so much. Also having a show/band you like helps your enthusiasm stay when it gets hard.