



More than words: Real Life Stories

1. What is your name and what is your course of study?

Molly Brownless, BA French and Japanese.

2. What languages do you speak, are interested in, or that you relate to in any way?

I speak English and Welsh fluently due to my upbringing. I am fluent in French due to living in the country for a year and studying it for over a decade, and I speak intermediate level of Japanese and German.

3. At what point in your life did you realise how important and how valuable knowing multiple languages was?

14 years old - before choosing my GCSEs.

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

Speaking multiple languages has enabled me to travel and meet

many more friends of many nationalities.

5. How do you think knowing more than one language has helped you, or will help you, in your professional life?

I think that knowing multiple languages helps develop better communication and multitasking skills and has enabled me to find work.

6. What career/s do you hope to go into in the future?

Language teaching - probably English as an international language.

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

The sense of achievement of being able to communicate with so many different people in their own language.

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8. What has been the most unexpected benefit of learning languages during your life?

Understanding my native language better, being able to date partners of different nationalities and speak in my mother tongue with fewer communication issues.

9. What has been the most challenging aspect of learning languages during your life?

The hurdle between not speaking confidently to speaking with confidence, regardless of level.

10. What is your favourite word or phrase in a language other than English?

Komorebi (木漏れ日) - it's the Japanese word to describe what the sunlight looks like when it filters through the leaves of trees up above.

11. Are there any other languages you wish you could speak?

Greek - my family and I often visit the country, it has many

etymological roots which could be useful for learning other languages and I would like to learn another alphabet.

12. How has being an MFL Mentor supported your journey with languages?

It has reinforced my desire to teach languages but has also shown me the bigger picture for how I should nurture learner enthusiasm for studying languages.

13. Has anyone or any one particular moment or thing, inspired you on your language learning journey?

My year 9 French teacher inspired me to continue studying French, and then I fell in love with language learning.

14. Do you have any funny stories to share about your language learning experiences?

I once tried to tell my French primary school learners that I had

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a puppy ('chiot'), but I pronounced the t on the end which is meant to be silent, because if you pronounce it with the t, it's a rude slang word for 'toilet'.

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

You absolutely do not need to be fluent. Learn because you want to learn and are interested. The best way to measure your progress is by if you can communicate with someone else who speaks the language.

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