



More than words: Real Life Stories

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

Panagiota Karyou, Biology.

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

I am from Cyprus but also half Romanian so I know how to speak Greek and a bit of Romanian as well. I know how to speak English too and on my own and through friends, I am learning to speak a bit of Japanese. I took a course in Spanish at university.

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

Since I was very young. Because I am bilingual I could communicate with more people from other countries so I found it very helpful and fascinating.

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

It has helped me make a lot of friends and form connections since as I can understand them and their culture better.

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

I want to travel all around the world so I think knowing languages will be very important to my career.

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

Lab or forensic science.

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

Being able to communicate with so many different people and understanding them so much better.

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

I find that some people treat you better when you know a bit of their language and culture.

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

Trying to study more languages and complete my university assignments at the same time.

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

Ai which means love in Japanese.

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

I wish I could speak Arabic and Korean.

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

It has helped me understand the meaning of languages and has

also helped me inspire young children and show them my passion for languages.

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

Being able to understand movies in their native language without subtitles.

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

When I first started learning Japanese I made a lot of mistakes so I kept confusing people with what I was trying to say.

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

You should not be afraid to learn a new language or try to speak it to someone else - people will appreciate your efforts and it will help you get better.

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