



More than words: Real Life Stories

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

Tianyu Xue, Master in Business Management.

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

I speak Mandarin at home but studied my Masters in the UK which was taught in English. I studied some extra-curricular French while studying for my Masters too.

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

When I was in junior high school my dream was to become a simultaneous interpreter because I thought it would be cool to be able to speak different languages and communicate with people from different countries without any barriers.

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

It has allowed me to have an open mind to better understand different cultures and make more friends.

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

Being able to speak different languages has helped me a lot in my studies and in my work - it has given me more options.

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

Project Manager.

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

Making so many friends from a wide range of backgrounds.

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

Simply learning the language itself and the effort needed, but it's worth it.

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

牛逼 – it means awesome in Mandarin.

10. Are there any other languages you wish you could speak? If so, what are they and why would you want to speak them?

French and Spanish. They sound very beautiful.

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

When I needed subtitles to watch a film in a foreign language.

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

When I found out that even English speakers have a variety of accents - we tried imitating each other's accents.

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

I have a better understanding of the importance of learning a foreign language and the need to start learning it early.

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

Relax and enjoy the language! It will give you a lot of fun!

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