

# Careers with Languages

## Mohamed Ragab

**Interpreter**



Mohamed is from Egypt, and here he shares how languages have helped him to not only become an interpreter but also to create memorable moments across his career.

### **Opening doors**

I often say it was a happy accident that led me to learn English. Originally, I set out to study chemistry and physics at university; however, English had always been a strong subject for me. I made the decision to transfer to English, which resulted in me moving to a new city and starting over.

I can easily say that learning English changed my life. It opened up doors I could never have walked through with Arabic alone. I spent four years working for a British travel company operating in Egypt, but it was when I worked as a staff member at the British Embassy in Cairo that my English skills came to the fore and my love of translating began.

I think one of the greatest milestones for me has been the ability to clearly express my religious, social, and educational views, whether to debate or simply connect with others, both on a personal level and also through translation work. I can support people in so many different ways and in so many different circumstances.

Each role I've held has brought with it memorable moments, all thanks to the level of English I've been fortunate enough to achieve.

### **Life beyond translation**

Learning English has helped me build other skills too. One of the most valuable was joining International Toastmasters, where I worked on my public speaking for about three years. I completed their programme to qualify as a Competent Communicator. That experience

taught me so much, especially the importance of feedback and the value of supportive communities.

I absolutely believe my language skills would enable me to work across other industries. I'm confident in my ability to take on different roles, and language would never be a barrier.

We live in a vast world full of rich history, literature, culture, and knowledge - far more than we can access through our mother tongue alone. Languages give us a way in.

I'll be the first to say language learning isn't easy, but then anything new is difficult at first. With time, practice, patience and a clear sense of purpose, it does get easier and the rewards are truly extraordinary.

Looking ahead, I'd love to learn more languages. Spanish and Chinese are definitely on my list!

**Discover more careers at [pearson.com/MFLGCSE24](https://www.pearson.com/MFLGCSE24)**

**#morethanwords**