

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 2328 Adults in GB / 1043 in France / 2411 in Germany / 1018 Adults in Denmark / 1124 Adults in Spain / 1045 Adults in Italy

Fieldwork: 9th - 27th July 2026

	Country					
	GB	France	Germany	Denmark	Spain	Italy
Weighted Sample	2328	1043	2411	1018	1124	1045
Unweighted Sample	2328	1043	2411	1018	1124	1045
	%	%	%	%	%	%
	26 - 27 Jul	10 - 22 Jul	10 - 13 Jul	13 - 21 Jul	13 - 22 Jul	9 - 20 Jul

Were you or were you not brought up in a household where someone spoke a language other than LANGUAGE fluently on a regular basis?

Yes, I was	19	20	17	11	25	12
No, I was not	80	78	82	88	73	86
Don't know	1	2	1	0	2	1

How useful, if at all, would you say it is to be able to speak a language other than LANGUAGE?

Very useful	46	62	57	70	69	70
Fairly useful	41	30	32	24	27	27
TOTAL USEFUL	87	92	89	94	96	97
Not very useful	7	5	5	2	3	2
Not useful at all	3	1	3	1	0	1
TOTAL NOT USEFUL	10	6	8	3	3	3
Don't know	3	3	3	2	1	1

Can you speak any languages other than LANGUAGE fluently (i.e. have a full conversation with a native speaker)?

Yes, I can	21	37	54	74	47	28
No, I can't	77	61	43	23	50	67
Don't know	1	2	3	3	3	5

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You said previously you can speak at least one foreign language fluently (i.e. have a full conversation with a native speaker). Which language(s) other than English can you speak fluently?

[Asked only to those who indicated that they can speak a language other than LANGUAGE fluently; n=500 in GB, n=374 in France, n=1317 in Germany, n=754 in Denmark, 550 in Spain, n=300 in Italy]

Afrikaans	4	3	1	0	0	0
Arabic	6	7	1	1	1	1
Bengali	5	1	0	0	0	0
Cantonese	6	1	0	0	0	0
Danish	0	0	1	x	0	0
Dutch	2	0	3	0	0	0
English	x	75	89	93	62	78
Finnish	0	0	0	0	0	0
French	24	x	15	2	18	24
German	10	8	x	26	3	8
Greek	4	1	1	0	0	0
Gujarati	4	0	0	0	0	0
Hebrew	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hindi	9	0	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indonesian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italian	5	7	5	0	8	x
Japanese	2	0	0	0	0	1
Korean	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mandarin	4	1	1	0	0	1
Norwegian	0	0	0	8	0	0
Persian/Farsi	1	0	0	0	0	0
Polish	3	1	2	0	1	2
Portuguese	4	5	1	0	5	1
Punjabi	5	0	0	0	0	0
Romanian	1	0	1	0	1	1
Russian	3	2	6	0	1	1
Regional language [Scottish Gaelic in GB; Basque in France; Frisian in Germany; Greenlandic in Denmark; Catalan in Spain; Sardinian in Italy]	1	1	0	0	29	2
Spanish	13	22	7	4	x	17
Swahili	2	1	0	0	0	0
Swedish	1	0	1	10	1	0
Tagalog/Filipino	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil	2	1	0	0	0	0
Thai	1	1	0	0	0	0
Turkish	1	1	2	1	0	0
Urdu	7	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Language [Welsh in GB; Breton in France; Sorbian in Germany; Faroese in Denmark; Galician in Spain; Catalan in Italy]	4	1	0	1	7	0
Valenciano	x	x	x	x	6	x
Euskera	x	x	x	x	5	x
Aranés	x	x	x	x	1	x
Some other language	13	7	4	1	3	5

Would you like to be able to speak another language that you don't already speak fluently?

[Asked only to those who indicated that they can speak a language other than LANGUAGE fluently; n=500 in GB, n=374 in France, n=1317 in Germany, n=754 in Denmark, 550 in Spain, n=300 in Italy]

Yes, I would	82	77	78	75	91	92
No, I would not	11	16	18	17	5	4
Don't know	6	7	5	8	4	5

Would you like to be able to speak a language other than LANGUAGE fluently?

[Asked to those who cannot speak any languages other than [LANGUAGE] fluently; n=1804 in GB, n=646 in France, n=1026 in Germany, n=236 in Denmark, n=541 in Spain, n=693 in Italy]

Yes, I would	75	73	77	76	89	90
No, I would not	18	23	17	17	7	5
Don't know	7	5	6	7	3	5

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If you could learn a language other than LANGUAGE, which language would that be?

[Asked only to those who do not already speak more than one language, who would like to learn another; n=1368 in GB, n=466 in France, n=790 in Germany n=177 in Denmark, n=484 in Spain, n=632 in Italy]

Afrikaans	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arabic	1	3	0	0	0	0
Bengali	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cantonese	1	0	0	0	1	0
Danish	0	0	2	x	0	0
Dutch	1	0	1	2	0	0
English	x	76	66	55	79	83
Finnish	0	0	0	0	0	0
French	21	x	7	4	4	3
German	8	3	x	12	3	1
Greek	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarati	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hebrew	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hindi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	0	0	0	1	0	0
Indonesian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italian	7	3	6	3	2	x
Japanese	4	1	1	2	1	2
Korean	1	1	0	0	1	1
Mandarin	2	0	1	0	0	1
Norwegian	0	0	1	1	0	0
Persian/Farsi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polish	1	0	1	0	0	0
Portuguese	1	1	0	1	1	0
Punjabi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romanian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russian	1	1	1	0	0	0
Regional language [Scottish Gaelic in GB; Basque in France; Frisian in Germany; Greenlandic in Denmark; Catalan in Spain; Sardinian in Italy]	1	0	1	0	1	0
Spanish	32	8	8	10	x	6
Swahili	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swedish	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tagalog/Filipino	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thai	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkish	0	0	1	1	0	0
Urdu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Language [Welsh in GB; Breton in France; Sorbian in Germany; Faroese in Denmark; Galician in Spain; Catalan in Italy]	3	0	0	2	0	0
Valenciano	x	x	x	x	0	x
Euskera	x	x	x	x	2	x
Aranés	x	x	x	x	0	x
Some other language	3	1	2	2	1	1
Don't know	6	1	x	3	2	2

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What would you say is the main reason that you would you want to speak a language other than LANGUAGE?

[Asked only to those who would like to learn a new language; n=1780 in GB, n=749 in France, n=1634 in Germany, n=736 in Denmark; n=990 in Spain, n=912 in Italy]

To use when travelling abroad	32	39	26	40	25	25
For personal improvement	19	20	24	20	23	23
Understanding media in foreign languages	3	6	10	6	6	6
To engage with other cultures	17	7	12	9	8	12
To improve my employment opportunities	4	8	4	3	13	11
Enjoyment of learning languages	9	10	8	10	17	13
I would like to live abroad	5	6	5	3	3	4
To communicate with family or friends	7	4	5	5	3	2
Some other reason	4	2	5	4	2	2
Don't know	1	0	1	1	0	1

In your previous answers you said that you do not fluently speak a language other than LANGUAGE, but would like to. What would you say is the main reason that you have not yet learned to fluently speak a language other than LANGUAGE?

[Asked only to those who do not already speak more than one language, who would like to learn another; n=1368 in GB, n=466 in France, n=790 in Germany n=177 in Denmark; n=484 in Spain, n=632 in Italy]

I have not had time to learn	23	16	14	6	21	21
I have found it too difficult to learn	23	16	18	25	34	16
I have not had a pressing enough reason to learn	25	18	28	27	19	27
I was put off by lessons at school	9	18	8	14	10	10
I worry I could never be good enough	8	15	8	14	7	11
Some other reason	8	12	16	8	7	10
Don't know	3	5	7	7	3	5

What would you say is the main reason that you would not want to be able to speak a language other than LANGUAGE?

[Asked only to those who do not speak another language and would not like to; n=318 in GB, n=149 in France, n=178 in Germany n=39 in Denmark, n=39 in Spain, n=31 in Italy]

I do not need to know any other language	24	19	23	31	19	17
I am too old to learn	14	21	27	8	17	4
It is too difficult to learn	14	11	12	20	4	19
I do not travel abroad	16	18	11	13	8	28
LANGUAGE is the only language you need	14	18	8	4	20	8
I do not have the time	8	7	11	2	16	15
Some other reason	5	3	4	14	9	3
Don't know	4	1	3	7	5	7

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Do you think it should or should not be mandatory for all children in the UK to learn a foreign language in school until the age of 16?

Should be mandatory	66	82	83	87	87	90
Should not be mandatory	25	9	11	5	10	6
Don't know	9	8	6	8	4	4

How important do you think it is for the following groups of people to be able to speak the language of the country they are travelling to?

Tourists

Very important	5	11	7	3	18	21
Fairly important	34	45	29	19	43	51
TOTAL IMPORTANT	39	56	36	22	61	72
Not very important	52	37	51	54	32	23
Not important at all	7	4	10	20	5	2
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	59	41	61	74	37	25
Don't know	3	2	4	4	2	3

People moving to a new country to retire

Very important	59	51	55	35	39	43
Fairly important	35	39	35	49	42	46
TOTAL IMPORTANT	94	90	90	84	81	89
Not very important	3	7	6	11	14	6
Not important at all	0	1	1	1	3	1
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	3	8	7	12	17	7
Don't know	3	2	3	5	3	3

Students going on a study abroad programme for a year

Very important	39	51	49	31	47	55
Fairly important	50	39	39	42	43	38
TOTAL IMPORTANT	89	90	88	73	90	93
Not very important	7	6	8	21	7	4
Not important at all	1	1	1	2	1	1
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	8	7	9	23	8	5
Don't know	3	3	3	4	2	2

People moving to a new country to work

Very important	74	70	70	56	61	68
Fairly important	21	23	24	35	32	26
TOTAL IMPORTANT	95	93	94	91	93	94
Not very important	2	4	3	5	5	4
Not important at all	0	1	1	0	1	0
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	2	5	4	5	6	4
Don't know	2	2	3	3	2	2