

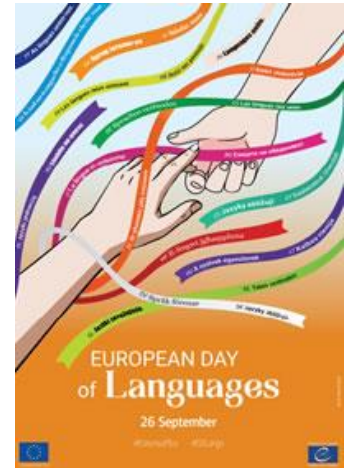
EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

1. WARM-UP – TALK ABOUT LANGUAGES

5 minutes

Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

1. How many languages do you speak?
2. Which language would you like to learn?
3. Why do people learn foreign languages?
4. Is English important for travel and work? Why?
5. Do you think learning a language is easy or difficult?



2. READING – EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Read the text and answer the questions.

A Day to Celebrate Languages

Every year, on 26 September, people across Europe celebrate the European Day of Languages. The day was first celebrated in 2001, following an initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. Its main aim is to encourage people to learn languages and to discover the different languages and cultures of Europe.

Europe is home to many languages. Some languages are spoken by millions of people, while others are spoken by much smaller communities. There are also many regional and minority languages. Every language is part of a community's history and culture.

Learning a foreign language can be useful in many ways. It can help people communicate when they travel, make new friends and understand other cultures. Languages are also important at work. People who speak more than one language may have more opportunities to work with international companies and customers.

The European Day of Languages is not only about learning English, French, German or Spanish. It is about language diversity. People are encouraged to learn new languages, but they are also encouraged to respect languages that are different from their own.

Schools and organizations around Europe celebrate the day in different ways. They may organize language games, quizzes, exhibitions, competitions and cultural activities. Students can learn simple words in different languages and discover interesting facts about European countries.

The message of the day is simple: languages connect people. Learning another language can open a door to a new culture, new people and new experiences.

3. COMPREHENSION

A. True or False? Write True (T) or False (F).

1. The European Day of Languages is celebrated on 26 September.
2. The day was first celebrated in 2010.
3. Europe has many different languages.
4. Only major European languages are celebrated.
5. Learning languages can be useful for work.
6. Schools can organize games and quizzes on this day.
7. Languages can help people understand other cultures.
8. The main message is that languages separate people.

B. Answer the questions.

1. What is one of the main aims of the European Day of Languages?
2. Why are languages important for culture?
3. How can languages help people at work?
4. What does the expression "languages connect people" mean?

4. VOCABULARY

A. Match the words with their meanings.

Word	Meaning
1. celebrate	a. different types or variety
2. encourage	b. a chance to do something
3. community	c. to show that something is important or special
4. diversity	d. a group of people who share a place, culture or language
5. minority	e. to give someone support or confidence to do something
6. opportunity	f. a group that is smaller than another group
7. communicate	g. to share information, ideas or feelings
8. culture	h. the customs, traditions and way of life of a group

B. Complete the sentences.

Use the words from Exercise A.

1. English is useful because it helps people _____ with people from other countries.
2. Schools can _____ the European Day of Languages with games and activities.
3. Learning a language can give students a new _____ to study or work abroad.
4. Europe has great linguistic _____.
5. A _____ language may be spoken by a relatively small number of people.
6. Language is an important part of a country's _____.
7. Teachers should _____ students to practise speaking English.
8. A local _____ may have its own language or traditions.

5. LANGUAGE FOCUS

Look at these sentences from the text:

Learning a foreign language can help people communicate.

People are encouraged to learn new languages.

Languages are spoken by millions of people.

Now complete the sentences with the correct form.

1. Learning languages _____ (help) us communicate.
2. English _____ (speak) in many countries.
3. Students _____ (encourage) to learn foreign languages.
4. Languages _____ (connect) people.
5. A foreign language _____ (open) doors to new opportunities.

ANSWER KEY

Comprehension – A

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False

Comprehension – B

1. On 26 September.
2. In 2001.
3. To encourage people to learn languages and discover different languages and cultures.
4. Because every language is part of a community's history and culture.
5. They can create opportunities to work with international companies and customers.
6. They can organize language games, quizzes, exhibitions, competitions and cultural activities.
7. It means that languages help people communicate and understand one another.

Vocabulary – A

1. c
2. e
3. d
4. a
5. f
6. b
7. g
8. h

Vocabulary – B

1. communicate
2. celebrate
3. opportunity
4. diversity
5. minority
6. culture
7. encourage

Language Focus

1. helps
2. is spoken
3. are encouraged
4. connect
5. opens

OPTIONAL FAST FINISHER

Language Challenge

Can you say "Hello" in five different languages?

Can you find someone in the class who can say it in a language you don't know?

Try to make a list:

- English – Hello
- Greek – Γεια σου
- French – Bonjour
- German – Hallo
- Spanish – Hola
- Italian – Ciao
- _____ – _____
- _____ – _____

Final question

Why do you think learning another language can "open a door" to a new culture?