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FOREIGN LANGUAGES: KNOWLEDGE AND POWER

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When learning a new skill, it is extremely important to motivate yourself in addition. It gives a meaning to your learning and allows you to keep in mind a list of benefits that will become a reality after learning the skill. Given that it sometimes takes a long time to learn a skill, a person needs to overcome moments of apathy.

It is hard to learn any foreign language, and it is even harder to constantly have in mind the same thought: “It will be great when one day I will master this language and be able to speak it.” Not only that but also, to the fallacy of such a thought (a specific day will never come), destructive thoughts also visit a person. However, there are advantages of learning a foreign language in addition to your own knowledge of the language itself.

As you learn a new language, your cognitive abilities will improve. For example, when memorizing words, you will train your memory. Moreover, you will be able to learn other languages indirectly without learning them. You will be able to understand the general concepts of languages and intuitively understand others not only phonetically, but also structurally. The University of Massachusetts conducted a study in 2007 and concluded that children who learn a second language, even though they sacrifice time studying mathematics, increase their mathematical abilities. Learning a language involves your structural and logical processes in the brain, which is the same as mathematics. That is, you still have to learn mathematics itself, but the brain will be more disposed to it if you study other languages. Knowing a foreign language also makes you a great listener. This is a wonderful skill that we need anytime,

anywhere. When learning a new language, you essentially have no choice but to listen carefully to a person, try to catch his accent and the meaning of what was said. Also, you simply cannot interrupt a person, because you are not particularly versed in a new language for you. It also allows you to develop empathy. It is almost impossible to learn a new language and be constantly distracted. In order to not only learn, but also to understand a new rule, to understand a sentence, you need to stay focused, as with learning any new skill. You will realize that the slightest distraction can ruin the progress you have made in the past few minutes. Therefore, mobile phones and other distracting issues will have their adverse effect on learning process preventing you from being concentrated. Learning a new language, you will also develop focus. When we set any goal and achieve it, it inevitably leads to increased self-confidence. That is the way people are. Surely you have read some advice of some productive people who wrote that if something does not work out for you, do what works - clean up the table, wash dishes, throw out garbage. Small success like this instantly start a chain of success in your head and boost your confidence. When we manage to carry on a dialogue for 30 seconds in an unfamiliar language, it gives tremendous energy, our perception increases many times. It is important that you celebrate your small success for yourself. If you cannot enjoy small victories, your brain will not be rewarded and will get tired quickly. We tend to think that sport prevents health issues. However, learning a new language can delay the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's by 4 and a half years, which is significantly more than what modern drugs are capable of. The bottom line is that multilingual people develop more neural pathways in their brain, which in turn allows brain not to scroll through the same thoughts and patterns (which often causes schizophrenia). Needless to say, learning a second language allows you to look at your native language and to notice some things which you have not paid attention previously. Intuitive understanding of the language is great, but it is not the way to the top. Any linguist or writer will tell you that there are different levels of understanding in your native language and that the same literary text is perceived differently, depending on your level. Learning a language is like putting all the pieces of a puzzle together. In one sentence, you can know half of the words, and guess the other half from the context. Furthermore, when you are talking to a native speaker of the language you are learning, your brain starts to get out of an awkward situation frantically, change the structure to another one, look for synonyms for the word you forgot. All this helps you to become inventive. When each of us is backed up against a wall, amazing things start to happen. Through foreign language, you will also learn cultural oddities of a country. A native speaker of a new language for you is a direct embodiment of the culture of his country. Watching a movie with a lot of dialogue will tell you less about the culture of this country than a normal dialogue with its resident. This makes you more diverse as a person and allows you to avoid many conflicts, because you begin to study a different culture, a different psychology, and take all the best.

Moreover, according to various statistics, knowing two languages adds you 10 to 15% of your salary. And if used correctly, it can change your life. If you want to be in business, it is vital that you do not close any doors to yourself— as any one of them can be a huge opportunity. There is nothing worse than being offered a new job with a salary increase of several times, with the condition of knowing another language. And if you will learn a new language, it will provide you with new and unknown traveling experience. This will not be an easy journey for you, it is a journey to a country whose language you know. You can experience a wonderful feeling when you do not feel awkward while staying in a foreign country. Yes, you do not look like a native of this country, but people will be happy to do business with you, especially if you have the right accent. People with a funny accent might have more problems with socialization. Yet if you find a friend in the country whose language you are learning, you will have more time for practicing. Think about all these benefits if you do not see clearly the reasons for studying foreign languages. It is always important to support your motivation by articulating your long-term goals.

In the age of globalization, it is important to develop every day, because this is the world in which we live. You cannot be on the same wavelength with society if you do not improve. Therefore, learning languages is just one of the types of self-development. This will help you open the doors to a completely new world that is full of possibilities and ideas. As we already know, each country cannot exist without its own language, since it is the national treasure of each state. Behind this treasure lies a great power, faith and history. Therefore, by learning a new language, you not only develop, but also become part of this heritage, which will definitely change your worldview.

From a practical point of view, people study foreign languages for different reasons such as getting a better job, emigrating, communicating with foreign friends or relatives, travelling, studying abroad, doing some research, learning more about different cultures. In our opinion, if you know at least one foreign language, you can learn more about the customs and traditions of a foreign country. For example, the works of the great German classic Goethe are better perceived in their original German language.

A great contribution to the development of our country is made by people who know a foreign language as their native language. Simply put – translators. Several centuries ago, even before the invention of many devices that are now familiar to us, important works of foreign figures were translated into Russian by people who were not indifferent to our future. Now, thanks to these people, many branches of activity are progressively developing in our country, for example, medicine. With the development of the latest methods of treating certain diseases, many human lives have been saved.

Human knowledge is now valued in society. It determines life path. We have come out of the times when people with greater physical strength were considered the most important. Knowledge of a foreign language helps a person to reveal his talents in matters of international relations with other states in order to prevent armed conflicts. Unfortunately, there are problems in the world that we have to call global. This is, for example, a sharp deterioration in the state of the environment. People are looking for a solution to this problem. And not only within a single state, but all over the world, together. Knowledge of a foreign language helps people to solve this difficult task, to exchange thoughts, to express their point of view. But these people also went to school once. They were taught not only their native language and various sciences, but also a foreign language, which played a decisive role in their lives, making them famous, giving them a future worthy of respect.

In general, even despite the role of a foreign language in the modern world, it can be considered an axiom that it is necessary. Probably because by studying it, we develop not only our mental abilities, but also the ability to communicate, articulate and substantiate our thoughts in different languages, in different conditions. Communication is very important for modern society. But if we communicate with people who live according to common traditions and have the same level of education, we will not be able to enrich our lives in the way that we can do when communicating with people with different national interests. Studying cultures of different states, a person understands the structure of the world. He adopts the life experience of great foreign thinkers and philosophers.

Finally, in order to achieve high results in your life, to conquer what no one else can conquer, to leave your mark on the development of the world, to find true friendship, even thousands of kilometers away, to show that everyone can do it, you should learn a foreign language. After all, it can give not only a great promising future, but also a present full of exciting communication.

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