

## Learner views: transcripts

In the following interviews, a number of adult learners talk about language learning.

### Learner 1

I'm interested in languages really, always have been since I was at school. And then I used to live in Holland, and I met people from all over the world there, so it gave me an interest then to learn their languages so I could communicate with them.

### Learner 2

I'm learning French at the moment because I started with learning English, and now I've got confidence in English so I wanted to start another language. That's why I just started last year to do French.

Because I like travelling and I want to take advantage of being close to Europe. And France, I thought, it's so close and I like fashion, I like food and also I'm quite interested in working in France as well. So that's really why I chose French and started last year.

### Learner 3

I'm learning Spanish because I go to Spain quite a lot and I've possibly got plans to live there. And I think any language learning is fascinating. And it broadens your outlook and you learn a lot about other countries. So I would say those points really.

### Learner 4

I'm learning Arabic because I work in education, and I wanted to go and teach English in an Arabic country. Because I've got TEFL and I've worked abroad before 60.

### Learner 5

I'm learning Spanish because it's my favourite language. I've learnt a few languages over the years and I really, really love it and I just wanted to be better at it. I think I always feel a little bit ashamed when I go on holiday and I can't really speak very much. And you come upon somebody who's foreign who speaks perfect English, so I just wanted to improve my skills.

### Learner 6

I'm learning Mandarin because I have an interest in foreign languages. And it will be useful because my wife and I are going this year in October to China for a holiday.

cont. >>>

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**Learner 7**

I want to be a proper European, to travel around, and if I'd like, to live in France for a while. I'm learning Spanish as well, so if I like Spain, I don't mind living there a couple of years to see the life there. As we are free Europeans, we can go and live anywhere. I think that's a marvellous thing - to be able to travel around without any restrictions and that's what I want to do. So I'm learning two languages at the moment.

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**Learner 8**

We've adopted a child from China and I wanted to be able to teach her some of her culture. And part of that is to learn the language.

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**Learner 9**

I go on holiday to Portugal quite a lot, and I want to become more fluent in the language. I've been five times now and I can say maybe half a dozen sentences. In part it's [that] I feel that we should learn more languages as a nation. In part it's because I look fairly Mediterranean apparently, and people talk to me in fluent Portuguese, and I have no idea what they're saying. So an interest, basically.

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**Learner 10**

I'm learning Mandarin because my company has two manufacturing partners that we work with, one in Nanjing and one in Zhengzhou, which is in the north of China where they speak Mandarin. So hence that's why I'm keen to learn, to be able to communicate with the engineers and with the commercial people.

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**Learner 11**

I'm learning actually English, also Korean at Brasshouse. And I am learning Korean because my ex-boyfriend was Korean, but my husband now [is] Japanese.

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**Learner 12**

A mixture of business and pleasure. In the job that I work in media I deal with some advertising agencies in Madrid. So it helps in that respect. But more so for pleasure. I visit Barcelona and Madrid quite often; I'm going to Madrid next week. Just hope to get more out of the country by being able to speak the language.

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**Learner 13**

I'm learning French because basically going on holiday last year I felt a bit embarrassed not being able to ask if a chair was free in a café, that sort of thing. So it's just, although I had learnt at school, in that time I've forgotten everything I learnt, so it's a matter of getting up to speed so I can go away and not feel ashamed not being able to speak any French.

I learnt French at school, but I also learnt German at university. So I'm able to speak German pretty well; I can't speak much French any more.