

European Day of Languages



It has never been easier to communicate with people across the globe. From instant messaging to video calls, the only limit to your connection with others is your ability to speak the same language.

There are over 6,000 languages spoken worldwide. More than 200 of these come from Europe alone! The Council of Europe and the European Union created a day dedicated to celebrating this. They called it the European Day of Languages.



What Is Europe?

Europe is the second-smallest continent on Earth. Europe is shared by 50 countries. **Approximately** 750 million people live in Europe.

When Was the European Day of Languages Created?

The event was meant to be a one-off occurrence when the first European Day of Languages was celebrated in 2001. However, the event has since been celebrated annually across Europe on 26th September.



Why Was the European Day of Languages Created?

The Council of Europe believes that language skills are necessary for everyone. They believe that only speaking one language can stop people from taking advantage of amazing opportunities throughout their lives.



The Council of Europe and the European Union wanted to raise awareness of three key points:

- Europe has many different languages and this is something that should be **preserved** and **enhanced**.
- People in Europe should aim to be able to speak a number of different languages. This should include less widely used languages.
- People in Europe should try to be citizens of Europe and not just **citizens** of the country they live in. If they are to do this fully, they should be able to speak at least a small amount of two or more European languages.

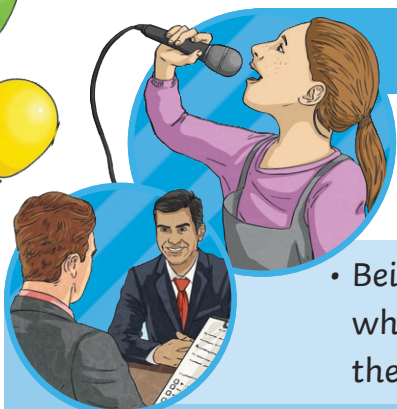
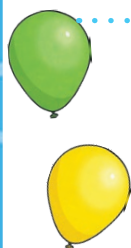
The Council of Europe hopes that learning new languages will also teach people about different cultures and traditions. In turn, this will promote respect among citizens of the world.



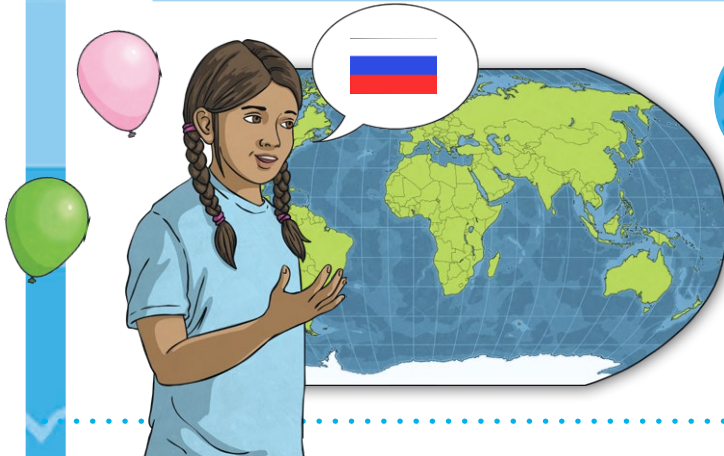
Why Should I Learn a New Language?

There are many amazing benefits to learning a new language.

- Being able to speak a few words of a new language when you are in another country can help you to find the things that you need.
- By learning a new language as a child, you will open up lots of job opportunities that you can explore as an adult.
- Studying another language can help you to understand more about how your own language works.
- Speaking another language lets you enjoy a wide range of art, music and film that you may never have got to experience.



No one is too old to learn a new language and to enjoy the experiences that doing this may bring. While it is often thought to be easier to learn a new language as a child, it is never too late to start.



Did You Know...?

Russian is the most widely spoken language in Europe. This is interesting because Russia is so large that it is actually in two continents! These are Europe and Asia.

Glossary

approximately: To show that something is almost accurate.

citizens: People who are legally known as a member of a country.

enhanced: To have been improved or increased.

preserved: To have been kept in its original or existing state.