

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 and 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?

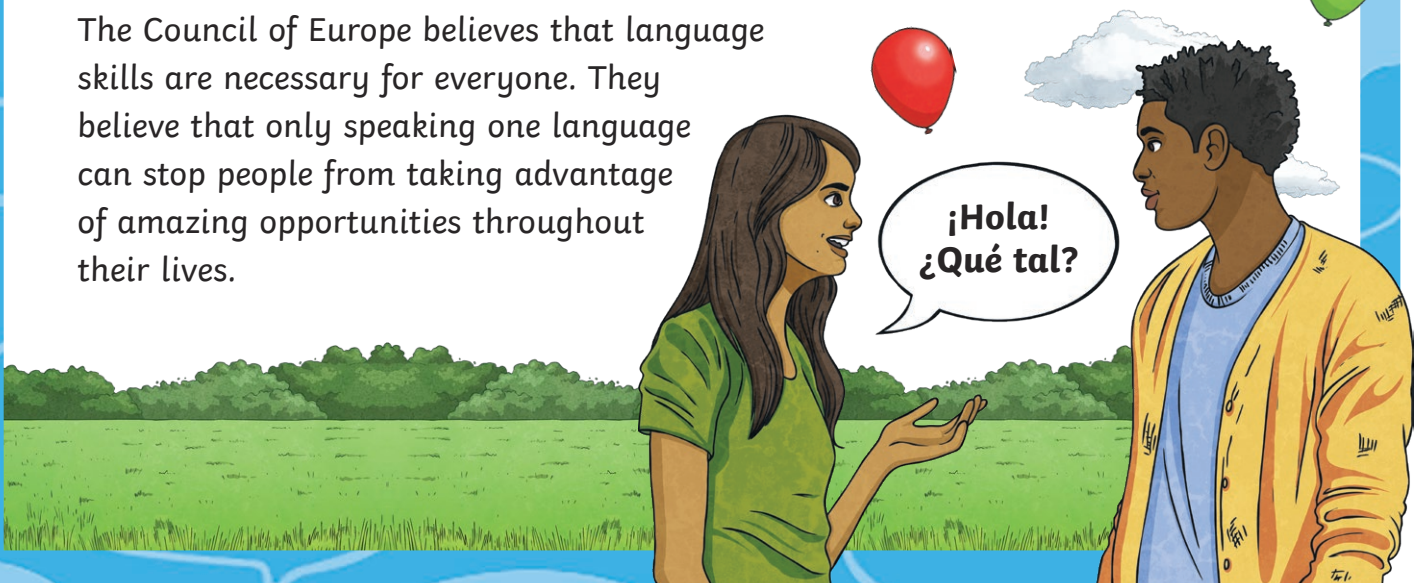
Europe is the second-smallest continent on Earth. Europe is shared by 50 countries and approximately 750 million people live in Europe.

Creation

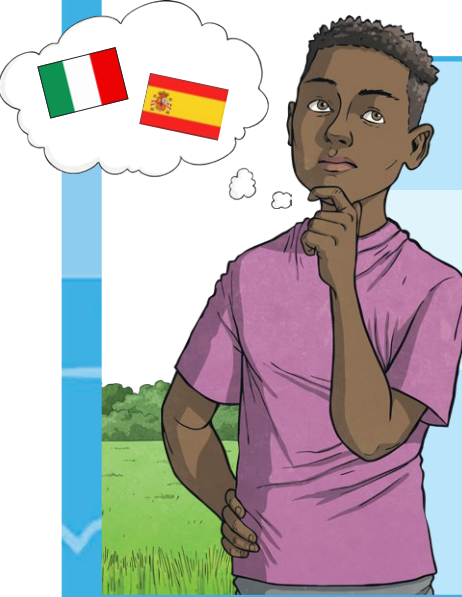
The event was intended to be a one-off occurrence when the first European Day of Languages was celebrated in 2001. However, since then, the event has been celebrated annually across Europe on 26th September.

Inspiration

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 created the European Day of Languages to raise awareness of three key points:

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- 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.
 - If people are to play their full part in being a citizen of Europe (not just a citizen of one country within Europe), they must develop their ability 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.

Learning 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.



Hints and Tips

Learning a new language can seem daunting at first but, with these hints and tips, you'll become fluent in no time:

- Try to have as much conversation as possible in your new language.
- Start by learning common words that you will use often.
- Label the items that you use frequently with their name in the language that you are trying to learn. For example, if you are trying to learn Spanish, you could stick a label saying 'agua' on your bottle of water.
- Practise speaking to yourself in your new language. Whether it's aloud or in your head, challenge yourself to say something in the language that you're trying to learn.

Glossary

enhanced: To have been improved or increased.

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

