

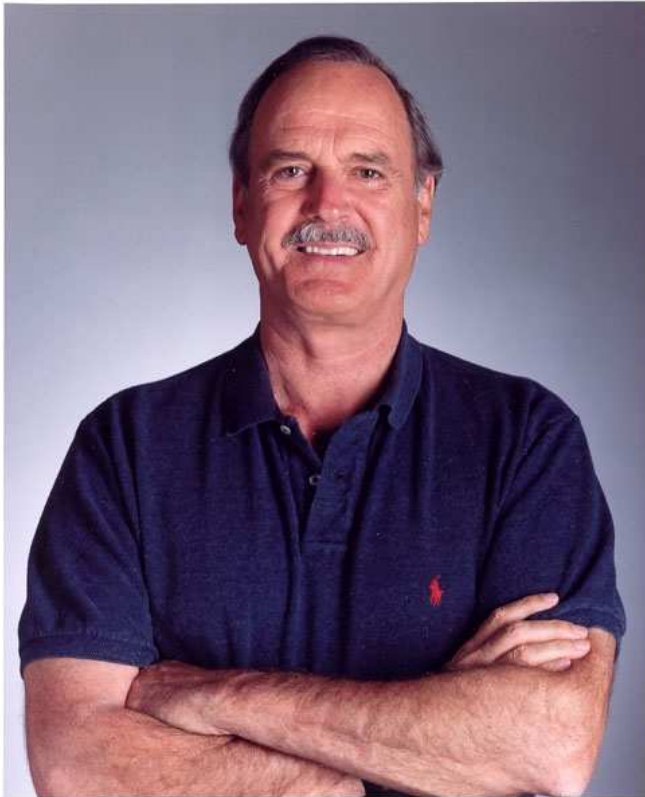


Sol Campbell: I'm 30 now and in five years' time I won't be in this country – that's definite. Italy looks good to me

because it would suit my kind of football. Spain is an option but the idea of tasting a new culture and learning another language excites me the most. I'm starting a little with French, of course.



David Beckham: I haven't conquered Spanish yet. I'm learning and understand what's said during training. I'm progressing little by little. Spanish is very difficult for me, although I am getting used to it. I am making an effort. It's complicated. But if I can conquer Spanish, it will have been a great achievement.



John Cleese:

Learning a language makes our minds stronger and more flexible.

Actually using it gives us an entirely new experience of the world.



Huw Edwards: During my career I have interviewed people of many nationalities and know that being able to address them in their own language is a great help. It puts the interviewee at ease and makes the conversation that follows (even if that is conducted in English) much more relaxed. We all need to develop extra language skills because they are essential in our multicultural society. As a Welshman I also feel strongly that we should celebrate and respect the world's minority languages.



Sir Alex Ferguson

CBE: All I can

advise, is that you

keep working at your

languages. Foreign languages are

exciting and interesting - keep up

the hard work, it will be worth it

in the end.



Colin Firth: Well, it's wonderful to have an excuse to learn a language. [My wife's] English is better than my Italian will ever be. But, if you're going to live your life with someone you should, as a mark of respect, try to learn their way of conceptualising things.



Ioan Gruffydd: The fact that I am bilingual is something I am extremely proud of. I'm one of a majority of young Europeans who can speak a second language. I speak two languages and this has given me access to two different cultures. It has also given me a wider perspective on the world.



Jodie Foster: I wish that I spoke more languages. I speak a couple of languages, but not well enough to really dub myself. French is really the only one and it's a difficult thing.



Gary Lineker: My wife and I learnt Spanish and Japanese when I played at Barcelona and Nagoya. We spent hours and hours in tuition – yet **we could have learnt either language at school.** Modern languages prepare you for modern life.

As the world gets smaller, **there's never been a better opportunity to get into languages.**

I've really enjoyed learning Spanish and Japanese.

Getting to grips with a new language can be great fun, and you learn so much about other people and what makes them tick.

Immersing yourself in the culture is critical to making it work abroad.



Lucy Liu: [on acting in a foreign language] I would love to do a French movie or a Spanish movie, in the language. When you speak a different language, whether or not you're fluent in it, you immerse yourself into a completely different person.



Gwyneth Paltrow says about her daughter, **Apple Martin**: '*Agua*' was her first word. She says a lot of words in Spanish, I speak to her in Spanish sometimes because I want her to learn.



Paula Radcliffe:

Although I'm known first and foremost as an athlete, my foreign language skills have given another dimension to my career. I regularly

use French and German when I travel to compete in Europe.



Prince William has said he will learn Welsh and taught himself Swahili because of his love of Africa: I've got a book and a book-tape... I have them in my room and they're collecting dust quite rapidly but I am trying to

make progress



Jonny Wilkinson: I spent some time brushing up on my French. I am reading the French version of *Running man* by Stephen King. It is one of my favourite films. I can get the gist of it, which makes it more enjoyable rather than having to have a dictionary by my side all the time. I need to speak the language a fair bit more. I would like to get it nailed down. The only way really to do that is to spend some time in France.



Oscar-winning
Hollywood star
Charlize Theron
learned many of the
28 languages she
speaks from the staff
on her parents' farm.



Hugo Speer learnt French for his role in *Barnie et ses petites contrariétés*: I'd

forgotten most of the French that I had learnt at school, I knew how to ask a girl out and how to order a beer, which are obviously the essentials! I was the only Englishman on the set, so I learnt quickly!



Alain Prost: It's always better to speak the language of the team. Not only for direct contact with everyone –

sometimes it also helps you to understand the mentality of the people in the team a bit better



Diane Modahl: I know lots of people speak English, but being prepared to say something in someone else's language is a way of showing them that you care, that you're prepared to make the effort and you don't just expect them to speak your language. That's quite arrogant actually, isn't it?



**Sir Trevor
McDonald:**

Language

learning at its best

can be one of the most enjoyable
and rewarding experiences that
life can offer.



Paul McCartney: I like languages. In school I learnt Latin, Spanish and German. On tour I have good translators that I work with. They translate what I want to say to the audience, I write it down and learn it. In 2003, Putin invited me and Heather to the Kremlin. I was telling him how I like to speak to the crowd, and I said I was going to say '*Privyet Maskvichi*'. He said 'Don't say that, say "*Priv-ee-et ribiata*". It means "Hi guys".' He said it's much cooler. Talk about how things have changed. For years the Kremlin wouldn't let you sing in Russia, and now they're coming to your gig and they're giving you language lessons on the side. I love it.

