*SHOULD YOU LEARN A SECOND LANGUAGE?*

Many children nowadays absolutely dread learning a second language. (I really like this opening, the word ‘dread’ is particularly strong) This statement ~~can be~~ (is) debateable however, lots of children actually adore learning another language. About 27.6% of the earth’s population (7.9 billion) like learning a new language and can speak that language fluently. 73.4% of people don’t or do not like speaking another language. (a lovely, clear statistic to back up your point!) Currently, there is believed to be more than 6,000 languages existent on the earth and our mission is to encourage more and more children to learn these languages. In this persuasive argument, I will aim to try and persuade YOU to learn a new language. (Love this direct address, it’s so persuasive!) Your country needs YOU!  (probably wouldn’t include this last line, purely because it’s not needed in the context)

Few people in this world are bilingual, trilingual or even multilingual. People who are wealthier normally are multilingual as they can afford more, others are not so lucky however, some native speakers of their own country only know the language of the country they live in.  (I like that you’re considering class here, I think that’s so thoughtful of you!)

I think that learning another language is a good thing because you can make new friends in other countries and even find a job there as well. (fab topic sentence) Experts have found that people who speak one or more languages tend to earn more money than the average person, they can earn up to £143,000 more ~~pounds~~ a year than ~~average~~ (I wouldn’t repeat this word in the same sentence, you could say ‘their peers; instead!) . (great! You’re using so many amazing studies and statistics) Not only this, scientists have found that learning new languages can substantially raise your physical brain size and ~~iq~~ (IQ)! Many intelligent people in history learned at least more than one other language than the language that they already speak, take Albert Einstein as an example, he had an IQ of well over c. 180-200 (140 is considered a genius) and he was born in Germany hence he spoke German, but when he moved to America, he had to learn anther language, English. (an incredible use of a well-known example!) He also learnt many other languages as well as German and English. If you move to the fun side of learning a new language, it can be hard work obviously, so why not learn more about the ~~country(s)~~ (countries) and cultures your language is spoken in? (This is a question, so make sure you punctuate it correctly) Finally, one last but not least aspect of learning another language is that, potentially, if you learn the language well enough and the culture well enough, you could technically, “survive” in that country, meaning that you could do all of the daily things you do in your own country ~~e.g~~ (I would just use a colon here) (:) shopping, talking to friends in a country your language is spoken in, and you could take a holiday in that country, or permanently stay there start a new life. (these examples are so compelling, and the direct address is fantastic!)

Schools across the UK have made learning a second language under the age of 16 compulsory meaning that you must. This rule has its advantages and disadvantages. Advantages: (Avoid phrasing it like this, try to use full sentences) Although leaning a second language can be hard work, remember it is a good (could you find a synonym for ‘good’?) thing, it can change your life. It improves your memory considering that you must remember tons of new foreign words and phrases. Remember, it is under the age of 16 so technically you are still, by standards, a child, scientists have discovered that children learn languages considerably faster than adults. (love this! Urging people to start early, while their minds are developing!) Disadvantages: it could take many years to learn only one other language. You could forget the vocabulary quickly if you don’t practise.  (As you’re trying to persuade the audience, I would only bring up the other side to then discredit it, or just add something like, ‘but don’t let this discourage you: the positives far outweigh this negative!’)

In conclusion, I think that learning another language is better than learning none at all, it may take years, yes, however by the end of it you may think that it wasn’t so bad after all and that you would like to learn another, unique language and slowly, gradually, you WILL get faster learning languages and you WILL be successful in your future.  (beautiful! I love that you say ‘you will’: this imperative language is so convincing!)

Learn a language.

Today.

By Benjamin Cai 06.03.2021

**What Went Well**

* You use so many convincing pieces of evidence throughout this piece, Benjamin! I love your shocking statistics about how many people enjoy languages, and how you then turn this essay into a way to convince the 73.4% that they should try a new language! You back yourself up so well, and it’s hard to argue with an essay this confident!
* I love the way you’ve used direct address, imperative language, rhetorical questions and even more amazing persuasive techniques here! One of my favourite parts is, ‘you WILL get faster learning languages and you WILL be successful in your future.’ The use of the imperative ‘will’ is so sure of itself, and so unbelievably compelling!
* Your overall structure is very good, and you even manage to consider the other side of the argument briefly. You use good, clear topic sentences and overall, this is super enjoyable to read. It’s so important to make persuasive pieces engaging and exciting to read, as it keeps the reader hooked and they’re more likely to agree with you by the end!

**Even Better If…:**

* When mentioning the other side of the argument, I would stress a little more that this doesn’t undermine your own argument at all. I’ve given you an example above of how you might phrase this. You could also consider saying that ‘some people believe…’, and then you can disprove it, strengthening your own argument!
* I think I would structure my argument a little more clearly, just by sorting it into a few equal paragraphs, all on one clear area. E.g. brain exercise, living abroad, job opportunities. Just making these distinctions between paragraphs a little clearer would make this even more compelling for a reader!
* I would really love to see you including descriptive techniques in your persuasive writing! Could you challenge yourself to use a simile, or the power of three? You could also use a thesaurus while writing to come up with some really impressive synonyms of words such as ‘good’. This flair would make this super enjoyable to read, and would grab and hold the reader’s attention immediately.