WHY SHOULD WE TRY TO LEARN A SECOND LANGUAGE?
Sylvia

Frequently we are asked about the importance of a second language. What do you think? As the proverb says, "So many men, so many minds." It is no use trying to explain why we should learn a second language, because it all depends on the individual. However, there are some major reasons that come to my mind immediately. Would you like to hear them?

To begin with, learning a different language can be very fun. Imagine you are traveling Africa, alone, with your little bit of knowledge of Swahili. You meet some Native Africans with whom you can communicate. Just picture yourself there! You can make friends on the spot regardless of your nationality, race, sex, ideology, etc.

Secondly, being bilingual or multilingual can be extremely beneficial. Do you have any experience of having a job interview? Recently it has been getting more and more tougher to be employed if you don’t have any specialty and good knowledge of second language. It is not a child’s play to get a highly-paid job with job satisfaction and security even if you graduated from colleges, summa cum laude. However, the door is still widely open to those who can manage other languages not their own.

Furthermore you can experience or live another life through knowing different cultures. Have you ever heard of Paul Gauguin? As you know, he was a famous French artist. But he traveled to a little island called 'Tahiti.' He learned the
islander’s language, customs, and culture. He was so fascinated that he stayed there to his last day of life. What a fabulous way to live. Though you have only one life, you can enjoy several different lives.

Last but not least, learning a second language is a quite good way to improve your own self-esteem. Fifty years ago you weren't bothered much by an inability to speak other languages. But the world is getting smaller and smaller. We are now living in a 'Global Village.' Suppose you are sending e-mails to your business partners as well as your friends! What an inconvenience it is if you can't express yourselves freely without the help of an interpreter. Besides being a nuisance, there is always the possibility of being misunderstood under the circumstances in which you are using go-betweens.

In conclusion, learning a second language is very significant because it can be both exciting and useful. Also it can allow us not only to taste different style of life but also to boost our pride, to name a few. However, the most important benefit it can bring us is not because it can be quite practical in every point, but because it can let us be more generous and more likely to tolerate different customs, cultures, peoples, etc. Even though we are all different, we are all the same humans with the same feelings with the same rights to be free, happy, and equal. Isn't it wonderful trying to learn another language!

Frequently we are asked about the importance of a second language. What are your answers? As proverb says, "So many men, so many minds." It is of no
use trying to explain why we should learn a second language. Because it all depends on everybody. However, there are some major reasons that come to my mind immediately. Would you like to hear me?

To begin with, learning a different language can be very fun. Imagine you are traveling Africa, alone with your little bit of knowledge of Swahili. You meet some Native Africans with whom you can communicate. Just picture yourself there! You can make their friends on the spot regardless of your nationalities, races, sexes, colors, isms, etc. It is the easiest and best way to make friends no matter who you are and what you are.

Secondly, being bilingual or multilingual can be extremely beneficial. Do you have any experience to have a job interview? Recently it has been getting more and more tough to be employed as long as you don't have any specialty and good knowledge of second language. Sometimes it is not a child’s play to get a highly-paid job with job satisfaction and security even if you graduated from colleges with summa cum laude. However, the door is still widely open to those who can manage another languages except your own. So if you really want to get hired, promoted, and respected in this competitive world, prepare yourselves before you leave your schools.

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In conclusion, learning a second language is very significant in those points mentioned above, to name a few. However, the most important benefit it can bring us is not because it can be quite practical in every point, but because it can let us be more generous and more likely to tolerate different customs, cultures, peoples, etc. Even though we are all different, we are all the same humans with the same feelings with the same rights to be free, happy, and equal. Isn't it wonderful trying to learn another language!
Early Rising

Miah (In Miae)

People have different daily life cycles depending on their sleeping habits. Those who sleep late cannot get up early the next morning, while people who go to bed early start each new day early. However, early rising has more benefits than late rising.

First of all, if we get up early, we will have a long day. We all have experienced lazy weekends: We stay in bed as late as ten am out of exhaustion from the busy week and then realize that it is almost lunch time and we haven't even had breakfast yet. We could have done something worthwhile instead of spending the time idly. "The early bird catches the worm."

In addition, early rising is good for health. Modern hectic life often deprives individuals of sleep and thus more and more people are troubled with curtailed sleep. Surprisingly, the most common doctor’s advice for insomnia is to get up early, which means we have more time to sleep during the day. Plus most healthy senior people start the day by doing exercises at early dawn.

Also, early rising helps us develop good healthy habits of becoming successful in life. Once we are accustomed to getting up early, we can start the day organizing our thoughts and ideas by praying or meditation. Having quality quiet time with ourselves is like having a head start. And a good beginning is half the battle. We become confident and well-prepared to accomplish our daily or life goals. A lot of successful CEOs are said to arrive at their offices before seven am.

For these reasons, early rising has positive benefits. It is essential not only for health but also for success. Morning persons can achieve much more than night persons, as they are more likely to be diligent and hardworking. Therefore, to manage a healthy and successful life, it is necessary to get up early.
We sometimes see a scene from Western movies or dramas in which the young children used to be sent to their bedroom on time, even though they were eager to watch TV or play games just a little more. It seems to be very reasonable because going to bed on time is deeply related to our health. The purpose of this paper is to explain the importance of going to bed on time.

First, going to bed on time means maintaining a good condition of physical rhythm. We spend almost one third or less of our whole life sleeping. So it is absolutely necessary for us to sleep comfortably. Our body is ‘science’ itself. It is a very delicate and scientific system. Regular routine is important for a healthy and stable life, and it comes from usual and regular use of our body.

Second, "A sound mind, a sound body"

Today there is too much violence all around us. Especially, we are frustrated whenever we face some violent behaviors by youngsters. As our children grow, we cannot help being worried about them because they are at the age that can be affected by something bad or harmful to their mind and body.

We should teach and lead our children to be self-controlled emotionally. In order to do this, it is needed for us to tell them to keep their bodies healthy. A sound body makes a sound mind. Even our children themselves know that watching too many violent movies or playing computer games late at night is the most useless thing for their health. Going to bed on time and having a good sleep is the basic and essential element of staying healthy.

In my own experience, my physical rhythm usually used to be broken after a long holiday such as Chu’seok, The New Year’s Day and so on, since I stayed up late at night talking and playing games with my siblings. Once it was broken, it was really hard to get back on track. A confused rhythm causes fatigue and an unstable physical condition.

In conclusion, a good sleep is an important part of our healthy and happy life. And also, since a healthy body can help our children keep their minds and emotions stable and peaceful, we should tell them to go to bed on time, and we ourselves also should do that in order to have a sound body and a better life.
How to save money

Jackie

A few days ago, I watched the TV program, “Economy Vitamin”, which showed how to save money. Research conducted by this program showed many people wanted to save money, but they didn’t know how to save money. The research also showed that many people already know the only way to save money is never to spend money. Never spend any money! Yet, this is so difficult to practice in our life. So, many people fail to save money. But there are some simple and easy rules that we already know about but we don’t practice well.

First, not using a credit card, but paying cash in order to purchase something you want to buy. When people purchase some items, most of them use their credit card. So, they usually buy some items which they really don’t want to buy. If they haven’t enough cash in their wallet, they will buy them by credit card without hesitation. But money spent by credit card always leads to heavy debt which someday you must pay off. However, when you pay cash to buy some items, you come to buy only that which is necessary. And accordingly, don’t use your credit card and save some money in your wallet and account.

Second, if at all possible, you’d better go to the market than the shopping mall. You can purchase many items at your local market. When you go to the market, you can choose the item you NEED to buy. But when you go to a shopping mall such as E-mart or Homeplus, you can choose so many items you don’t need to buy because of the atmosphere around you. In the shopping mall, you look around at so many items, and you can misjudge if you must have the item (but it is not necessary for you). Therefore, when you want to buy something, you’d better go to the market where there are displayed only a few items. And then, you can save some money because of not spending to buy the unnecessary item.

Finally, if you want to save some money, you’d better keep a housekeeping account book just for keeping track of your expenses. If you keep account of your expenses for the next month, you’ll decide the priority of items which you have to purchase and those which you don’t. And then, you can prevent to spending on the unnecessary.

In conclusion, saving money means not spending money, anywhere, anytime. It means that you must know the situation you have to spend money and therefore maybe, you need not spend it. Remember, “Little drops of water make the ocean.”
School uniforms

Did you wear a school uniform when you were a student? How did you feel when you did? Nowadays some schools permit students to decide what to wear to school. However, it is advisable for high schools to require their students to wear school uniforms rather than to permit them to decide what to wear to school.

In the first place, school uniforms, although students prefer more liberal-style in their fashion, serve to display a student's identity. They call people's attention to the fact that its wearer is a young student who deserves our care and protection. In this sense, it plays the role of a kind of safety valve to keep students from such situations as may involve them in misconduct. If students go without this safety valve and teachers have no control over them, it may cause both schools and society more problems than ever.

Secondly, if students are permitted to wear the dress of their choice, such dress must be in accordance with decency and practicality because it is for school and not for any dinner party or social reception. Moreover, they shouldn't waste much time on shopping and thinking of which clothes they should wear on the next day. It can disturb their studying.

Finally, a liberal dress policy for high schools may create difference in social status among students. If students are allowed to wear what they want, some students, especially girl students, who are from well-off families will choose expensive brand-name clothing while other students from less well-off families may feel unhappy at the sight of their classmates wearing this more expensive and elegant dress. Young students are still not so mature as to take for granted that their families cannot be all in the same situation economically. Accordingly, a liberal school dress will do them more harm than good.

A liberal dress policy will make students fell free and may help them grow into more independent persons. It is more harmful than productive, considering all the negative effects it may have on the mind of young students. Consequently, high schools had better require their students to wear uniforms rather than to allow them to be liberally dressed.
Surfing The Internet

By Kye–ja Park

Surfing the Internet can bring several good things. These days people around the world are surfing the Internet to get what they want. Of course some of them say that it is better to do away with computer and not to connect it. However, there are more benefits than negatives.

Above all, people can visit any place they are going to travel in the future just through searching Internet sites before leaving for destinations. If they make a decision to go there they can surf the sites and reserve airlines, hotel rooms, or camping sites in famous parks around the world. They can do all of this in their own rooms through the Internet.

People can also surf the Internet in their free time. Some Korean housewives search shopping sites when they stay home alone and accidentally find out good sites for themselves. Imagine another situation. One day several ladies gathered at an alumni meeting. One of them wearing a luxurious coat was boasting that she had bought it at a famous department store. A few minutes later another lady showed up in the same kind of coat. She told them that she had bought it at the Internet shopping mall for a song. Picture the scene!

Best of all, anybody who has an opinion about social events or something can find good sites to be able to express their thoughts freely on the Internet. About twenty years ago people thought that only specialists, such as scientists, statesmen, and journalists, gave public opinions through TV, radio, or newspaper. But now everyone can enjoy the freedom of expression, which is the most important thing for people in the world.

So in conclusion, though some people are worried about the abuse of the Internet and the damage of visiting bad sites, surfing the Internet and visiting good sites will be of benefit to everyone living busy lives. Surfing the Internet can not only save money and time but also get a wide variety of information they need in a short time. Moreover, people can connect to the outside world to communicate with other people if only they discover available sites for themselves.
The benefits of being a woman in a girls' school

Han Bo-hyung

Sometimes I have a chance to talk to some 'rookie' teachers. They usually get all the compliments from the students. If they are tall and handsome men, they are definitely treated like movie stars. My work place is a girls' junior high. So I often see them surrounded by their fans or sitting behind stacks of presents on a day like Valentine's. But I also see them having a hard time dealing with their students. They say sometimes they don't know how to deal with them. At those times I realize that I have some benefits simply because I am a woman. There are several good things about being a woman teacher in a girls-only school.

First of all, it seems that women teachers are very quick to sense the students' looks or their feelings. This aspect, I think, gives women teachers a better way to control their students as well as to understand them. The students in our school are not allowed to put on make-up. And they have to wear their uniforms without any alteration. Some students slightly change their skirts or jackets in their own way. Teenage girls dye their hair for stylish looks. Teachers are supposed to discipline those rule-breakers, regardless of their educational beliefs. In dealing with this kind of matter, many women seem to feel easier than men. They say they can recognize anything wrong right away. In comparison, many male colleagues confess that they don't see anything different from the others, no matter how hard they try to find something wrong.

Second of all, it is more convenient for women to build close relationships with students. I tend to contact my students physically. For example, I pat my students on their shoulder as a token of encouragement or showing interest. When I need to punish them in class, if their wrong doing is not a serious one, I usually pinch their noses and twist them. Because my poor students, 'the slaves of grades' prefer it to getting a minus point. In contrast, for male teachers, what I do is a thing they can never dream of. Their behaviors are apt to be misunderstood in many ways and get them into serious problems.

Lastly, female teachers can converse about a wider range of topics than their counterparts, which can help them to be better councillors. They can talk with their same-sex pupils about their private matters or social issues. Of course, men can talk
about many social issues with their students. However, when it comes to private
problems or role-model issues, the females have the priority over the males.
Considering that all students undergo a great physical change in their school days, the
fact that you can share with your student’s physical matters can be a strong and
meaningful element building up a close relationship with the teenagers.

I have a student who walks around in a weird posture, showing casually that she is on
her period in front of me. She seems to think she has some kind of bond with me. Also, I
have a student who is having difficulties with her mother. She complains that her
mother tries to push her to live a life against her will. I told her some stories, both from
a daughter’s point of view and from a mother’s. I assume these things happen because I
am a woman.

I don’t want to contend that all women teachers can treat students better than men.
And I admit that there are some benefits of being a male teacher in a girls’ school too. I
just wanted to point out some positive aspects of being a woman teacher in a girls’
school. First, women teachers can perceive students's looks or feelings better than men.
This can help them deal with students in a positive way. Second, they can establish
kinship easily with their students by way of frequent physical contacts. Third, there are
some issues which can be of more advantage to women teachers.
The Pleasure of Living in Seoul

When you feel bored in your everyday life, you should remind yourself of the existing pleasures of living in Seoul.

First of all, you can meet various kinds of people in Seoul. At their workplace or in your neighborhood, you can see them. They are of different regional origins and educational backgrounds. There is a Korean proverb, “If a horse is born, let it be in Jeju island and if a man is born, let him be in Seoul.” People, who want to succeed in life, gather together and compete with each other. Furthermore, you can see foreigners who are from the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and even Southeastern Asia.

Second, you can experience much cultural exposure in Seoul. If you are fond of the arts, you can visit the National Art Museum or City Museum nearby. If you are a sports-maniac, you can go to a sports-complex and watch a real sports game. If you enjoy wine, you can join a wine club on-line and then have off-line meetings easily. If you want to dance, you can go to a dance academy or a dance club and enjoy dance everyday!

Third, you can travel anywhere within Seoul easily. As you know, Seoul is a metropolitan city. It covers a huge area. So you can choose specific themes for your trip and visit that place. For example, Itaewon is a good place to see the international influences on Seoul. Dongdaemun Market is the best place to buy any kinds of clothes. Samcheongdong is recommended for taking a walk. You can enjoy famous restaurants and galleries there.

In conclusion, if you are tired of meeting the same kinds of people around you, if you want to have some exotic experience, I suggest you come to Seoul. In Seoul, you can meet people ranging from janitors to 1st class public officials, in person! Also, you can see people from abroad. If you seek some exciting experiences, you can join in Seoul life, too. You can enjoy not only cultural experiences but also some practical Seoul life experiences.
What Makes a Happy Person

Julia (허인순)

Fundamentally, every human being wants to live in happiness and actually tries their best to be happy. Yet, some people, in my opinion, spending their entire life trying to make tons of money whereas others immerse themselves in sports, movies, music, and anything else in which to find some fleeting feeling. To be a truly happy person, one must find for themselves the essence of who they are. There are several keys to being a happy person.

First of all, to live happily, one should keep healthy. Choose the exercise which is suitable for your age and interest while doing it regularly. Through it, one can be healthy and feel happy. Also be mindful of a healthy diet. Remember "you are what you eat." One should avoid junk food like fast food, soda and while drinking as much water as possible. Instead of meats, eat fresh vegetables and fruits. High calories in oily food often cause many diseases. Most people have problems because they eat too much – more than they need.

In addition, one should know when to stop. Just like food, one should control the desire for material things. For a peaceful mind, one needs a diet for both the mind and body, so temperance is essential. Of course, ambition is a trait that is stressed in most cultures and it is this that, paradoxically, makes us unhappy. Ambition, so all are told, is the key to success and financial stability, but if there is no time for family or friends – something is wrong. Money cannot be the goal of life. Life is not a 'bean counting contest!' Make time for yourself and the people you love.

For me, the following is very important. I think, you should find a really passion for 'something,' find it as early in your life as possible and do your best at it because you enjoy it. No matter what may happen, even though you may fail, you can see the value in the work itself because the effort itself will give you meaning.

Lastly, share with others what you have. All the things you have are not completely your own. What you have now is in a sense, owing to others. Your talent and your fortune should not be used merely for yourself but also for others. Pleasure can be doubled by sharing it. It will help you make true relationships with others and also help your life richer and happier.

Ultimately, a happy person is someone who is healthy in mind and body, someone who can control their desires, fulfill themselves with his work, and willingly share what they have with others. These are the keys to happiness. Are you ready to be a happy person right now?
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Why you should read the newspaper everyday?

A celebrity once said “There is the future in the newspaper”. And not only many respectful and successful gurus like Alvin Toffler and Warren Buffett but also ordinary people who live actively on their own turf agree that reading the newspaper everyday is one of the habits which led them to what they are today. Why do they suggest that? There are several reasons why you should read the newspaper everyday.

First, you can get many kinds of information: on the economy, politics, health, life and so forth. The articles on these are not scribbles but records of everyday life. While you are exposed to the information about the current economic and political situation, your background knowledge is enriched. Based on that, you may make your investment plans. Through that, you can make your life more affluent. And when you read the “how-to” articles on health or life and then try them out, you can improve the quality of your life.

Second, you can experience other people’s lives indirectly. By reading books, you can do this, too. But it’s not that easy or convenient as reading the newspaper everyday. And you can approach much more people this way. When you’d like to know about him or her in-depth, you can choose a book about him or her. By reading biographies everyday without too much stress, you get stimulated to improve yourself.

Third, you can know other’s opinions on daily issues by reading editorials or polls. When you read a recent survey you are interested in, you may be entertained, too. And you can improve your critical thinking skills and logic by being accustomed to reading editorials. That’s because the professionals of a specific sphere usually write the editorials, which are good examples of well-written persuasive writing.

In conclusion, there are many good points in reading the newspaper everyday. You can get various information. Also, you can hear the stories about the people whom you’d like to follow or know about. Moreover, you can keep abreast of the current matters of public concern. So, please don’t forget to pick up the newspaper every morning.
Why We Should Take This Writing Course.

Olivia

As we know well, learning English as a foreign language means acquiring the four skills of language—listening, speaking, reading and writing. However, so far we have paid more attention to listening, reading, and speaking when teaching English at school. In fact, the writing mode has been less focused on because not only are there few teachers who have taken writing classes at college, but we also have not had enough writing courses to train or improve our writing ability. We need to increase our writing capability to develop our students' writing competence. Actually there are many different kinds of writing classes out there, but there are several reasons why we should take this particular writing course.

First of all, to increase our writing ability, we should have chances to write on our own as many as possible. This writing course provides you with fun and interesting writing practices. It consists of four different modes: Description, Exposition, Narration, and Contrast and Comparison. While every section gives you writing exercises with different themes, we realize that writing is sort of amazingly, exciting creative work.

Second, English teachers usually need various kinds of teaching methods when teaching students how to write. The native teachers in this course have different educational and cultural backgrounds. Their teaching experience is also very professional. They demonstrate to us how to teach because their students are English teachers of young boys and girls students. So this course exposes us to their authentic teaching methods.

Finally, this course has no fee but is of a high quality. This writing course is prepared for English teachers by the Seoul Training Institute, so any English teachers can take this course with no worry about the fee. The Seoul Training Institute is a public organization that has created many kinds of training programs for English teachers for the last thirty years. They "read" exactly what we need and want through their scientific surveys after every course. As a result, they deliver this writing classes for English teachers. The survey shows many teachers who have experienced this course are satisfied with its quality.

So in conclusion, we should take this course because we can improve our writing skills by writing essays as well as extra teaching "know–how" from the instructors with no paying.