

# MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGE LEARNING

## MYTH

## FACT

"It won't help in my planned profession."



Language skills are in demand across a wide range of fields, and the demand is growing in the US. Language skills and global experience set job candidates apart.

"Machines can replace human translators."



Microsoft itself emphasizes that machine translation works only for certain tasks and situations, where an approximate translation is all that is needed. Machine translation is of lower quality than what human beings can produce.

"Everyone speaks English."



75% of the world's population does not speak English. Of those who do, relatively few have advanced proficiency.

"Language learning is about memorization. It is dull."



For decades, the norm in language education has been to emphasize real communication, using authentic materials from other cultures. Language learning opens doors to a world of understanding and experience.

"I can just finish my language requirements when I'm finishing college."



Students are most successful in language courses when they study without interruptions to build on prior knowledge from high school.

"Using two languages is confusing and hurts cognition."



Growing up with multiple languages has been the norm for most of human history in most places. Being bilingual has cognitive, social, and financial benefits.

"Other languages are obstacles for integration."



Bilingual individuals serve as bridges and facilitate integration in their communities.