

LANGUAGES

TOP TEN

- Look for languages everywhere! Have you ever noticed the word “eau de parfum” on your mum’s perfume bottle, and wondered what language it is? Or why “Real Madrid” are called “Real”, do people need to know that they aren’t fake?
- Are you going abroad over the summer holiday? What language do they speak in the country that you are visiting? Do they speak more than one language? Could you learn how to greet people, say thank you, ask for the bill?
- Who are your favourite painters, musicians, historians, writers, footballers, dancers? Where are they from? Which languages do they speak? Why have you heard of them? Where do they live? Do they live in the same country that they were born in?
- Think about how weird English is! If one mouse is a mouse and two mice are mice? Why aren’t two houses “hice”? Questioning your understanding of your own language will help you to see the patterns in a new language.
- Find out what the most widely spoken languages in the world are. Is English number 1?
- Which countries in the world speak Spanish? Can you name 5? 10?
- If you like art, why not take a look at some of the famous paintings by Picasso. In particular look for his cubist paintings such as “The Three Musicians”. Can you work out what each person is playing? Did you spot the animal hiding in the background?
- Do you know anything about the rainforests of South America? Costa Rica has one of the richest collections of plants and animals on the planet. They speak Spanish in Costa Rica too!
- When you are out and about, look for mottos and written signs on older buildings. They may be in Latin. Latin is the root language of languages such as French and Spanish.
- Finally, get used to speaking – and listening! This is the most important thing that you will be doing in your lessons.