



More than words: Real Life Stories

1. **What is your name and what is your course of study?**

Jacob Franklin. I study Italian and Music.

2. **What languages do you speak, are interested in, or that you relate to in any way?**

I have a relatively good understanding and confidence in speaking French and Spanish as I studied these subjects at A level. I started studying Italian from scratch at university as it was a language I was always interested in learning and it links well with my other specialist subject, music. Moreover, I can study music in Italy on my year abroad! I am also currently learning Welsh, once-a-week sessions with my amazing friend!

3. **At what point in your life did you realise how important and how valuable knowing multiple languages was?**

During my GCSE years.

4. **How has being able to speak more than one language helped you in your personal life?**

I have made some friends in Spain and France due to immersion trips abroad when I was a younger. Language learning has also given me lots of confidence!

5. **How do you think knowing more than one language has helped you, or will help you, in your professional life?**

For me it has opened my mind into other cultures, more diversity around the world which will definitely help professionally with the life experience of this.

6. **What career/s do you hope to go into in the future?**

Music Therapy/Speech and Language Therapy.

7. **What has been the most impactful thing about learning**

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a language on your life to date?

Having the opportunity to visit Italy and speak Italian to natives, and feel that sense of achievement! Far from where I want to be, but a massive stepping stone in the right direction.

8. What has been the most unexpected benefit of learning languages during your life?

Sharing my love for languages in the MFL Mentoring project and experiencing many educational opportunities.

9. What has been the most challenging aspect of learning languages during your life?

The lack of motivation is definitely an occasional struggle which I don't think is spoken enough about with learners. This can be due to challenging topics in language learning or losing the rhythm you have in the consistency of your learning.

10. What is your favourite word or phrase in a language other than English?

Aiuole - meaning 'Flowerbeds' in Italian, the only word I am aware of which uses all the vowels and is pronounced beautifully!

11. Are there any other languages you wish you could speak?

I would love to learn Portuguese. Portugal is such an amazing country. I visited the country when I was growing up and it shares some similarities with other languages I have a knowledge of.

12. How has being an MFL Mentor supported your journey with languages?

It has given me the platform to speak to students, not only to promote the uptake in languages but a place where I can share with others how we all find language learning, supporting all 😊.

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13. Has anyone or any one particular moment or thing, inspired you on your language learning journey?

My amazing GCSE Spanish teacher, Miss Flores. An absolutely fantastic teacher who still believes in me to this day. I could never thank her enough for being an incredible guide for university and beyond!

14. Do you have any funny stories to share about your language learning experiences?

When I was 13, I was staying with an older Spanish lady and I wanted to ask "is it hot today?" And I used the word "caliente" which can mean "hot" if you're talking about "hot chocolate" or "hot dog", but I phrased it "está caliente?" Which means something pretty inappropriate!

15. If you could give one piece of advice to students thinking about learning another language, what would it be?

Trust the process, but most importantly enjoy the process and make it as fun as possible!



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