



## More than words: Real Life Stories

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

Panagiota Karyou, Biology.

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

I am from Cyprus but also half Romanian so I know how to speak Greek and a bit of Romanian as well. I know how to speak English too and on my own and through friends, I am learning to speak a bit of Japanese. I took a course in Spanish at university.

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

Since I was very young. Because I am bilingual I could communicate with more people from other countries so I found it very helpful and fascinating.

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

It has helped me make a lot of friends and form connections since as I can understand them and their culture better.

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

I want to travel all around the world so I think knowing languages will be very important to my career.

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

Lab or forensic science.

7. **What has been the most impactful thing about learning a language on your life to date?**

Being able to communicate with so many different people and

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understanding them so much better.

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

I find that some people treat you better when you know a bit of their language and culture.

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

Trying to study more languages and complete my university assignments at the same time.

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

*Ai* which means love in Japanese.

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

I wish I could speak Arabic and Korean.

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

It has helped me understand the meaning of languages and has also helped me inspire young children and show them my passion for languages.

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

Being able to understand movies in their native language without subtitles.

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

When I first started learning Japanese I made a lot of mistakes so I kept confusing people with what I was trying to say.

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

You should not be afraid to learn a new language or try to speak it to someone else - people will appreciate your efforts and it will help you get better.



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