



## More than words: Real Life Stories

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

Tianyu Xue, Master in Business Management.

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

I speak Mandarin at home but studied my Masters in the UK which was taught in English. I studied some extra-curricular French while studying for my Masters too.

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

When I was in junior high school my dream was to become a simultaneous interpreter because I thought it would be cool to be able to speak different languages and communicate with people from different countries without any barriers.

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

It has allowed me to have an open mind to better understand different cultures and make more friends.

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

Being able to speak different languages has helped me a lot in my studies and in my work - it has given me more options.

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

Project Manager.

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

Making so many friends from a wide range of backgrounds.

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

Simply learning the language itself and the effort needed, but it's worth it.

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

牛逼 – it means awesome in Mandarin.

**10. Are there any other languages you wish you could speak? If so, what are they and why would you want to speak them?**

French and Spanish. They sound very beautiful.

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

When I needed subtitles to watch a film in a foreign language.

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

When I found out that even English speakers have a variety of accents - we tried imitating each other's accents.

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

I have a better understanding of the importance of learning a foreign language and the need to start learning it early.

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

Relax and enjoy the language! It will give you a lot of fun!

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