

# Languages Newsletter



## Sport stars who speak other languages



**Gary Lineker**—Besides English, the former footballer learnt **Spanish** while he was playing for Barcelona, and picked up some **Japanese** when he later moved to Nagoya Grampus Eight. He's now a passionate ambassador for languages in schools, saying 'the learning of languages, for me, will always be helpful for the vast majority at some stage in their life'.



### Tom Daley

The British diver recently got an A in his **Spanish** A-level, and makes good use of his language skills when in Mexico, where he spends a lot of his time.



### Cesc Fabregas

Another footballer, Fabregas speaks four languages –

**Spanish, Catalan, English and French**, and his **Twitter** feed is multilingual. When asked about his language skills, he replied, 'These days you have to keep studying, not least because my mum tells me so.'

### Paula Radcliffe

Long-distance runner Paula Radcliffe has a first-class degree from Loughborough University in European Studies, and speaks **French** and **German** fluently. She now lives in Monaco with her husband and two children, who are both bilingual, attending a French school but also fluent in English.



### Roger Federer

Not content with winning a frankly quite ridiculous 17 Grand Slam titles, the Swiss tennis player also speaks four languages fluently – his native **Swiss German** along with **French, English and German**. He's known for his ability to switch effortlessly between languages in interviews and press conferences and can quite comfortably answer journalists' questions in their own language, a feat some of his fellow tennis players can't keep up with. Wouldn't be the first time.



### Novak Djokovic

Never one to let Roger take all the glory, fellow tennis champion Novak Djokovic speaks five languages – **Serbian, English, German, Italian and French**. He studied English and German at primary school, and learned Italian when he worked with coach Riccardo Piati. In an interview with **Tennis Talk** in 2013, he said, 'We have a saying in our country: The more languages you know, the more is your worth as a person. I like to understand what people are saying wherever I am, at least to pick up a few phrases of those languages.'

## Premier League—Which club speaks the most languages?

- |    |                |              |
|----|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | Watford        | 11 languages |
| 2. | Liverpool      | 9 languages  |
| 3. | Man Utd        | 8 languages  |
| 3. | Leicester City | 8 languages  |
| 3. | Southampton    | 8 languages  |
| 6. | Chelsea        | 7 languages  |



**Fernando Alonso** The Spanish Formula One racing driver speaks an impressive four languages **Spanish, Italian, English and French**. And in case that's not enough, he's apparently working on **Russian** too.