



Languages Newsletter



Celebrities who speak other languages



ACTORS:

Bradley Cooper: Bradley Cooper took part in a French exchange programme in Aix en Provence during high school,

Colin Firth: Colin Firth is married to Livia Giuggioli, the Italian film producer and director. He says: "It's wonderful to have an excuse to learn a language. [My wife's] English is better than my Italian will ever be. But, if you're going to live your life with someone, you should, as a mark of respect, try to learn their way of conceptualising things."

Mila Kunis: Mila Kunis, also famously known as the voice of Meg from the TV show Family Guy, moved to Los Angeles from the Ukraine when she was only seven years old. Kunis still practices the Russian she learnt as a child,

Brad Pitt: Brad is of German ancestry, speaks the language and is a regular to the country. "I like the language – I even find it beautiful and melodic," he told the "Cologne Express" newspaper.

Natalie Portman: Natalie Portman can already speak five languages; Hebrew, German, Japanese, Spanish and French, two of which she can speak fluently. Portman spent her early years living in Jerusalem and has mastered the lan-

Eddie Izzard: This stand-up comedian and actor has toured his stand up show 'Force Majeure' in a multiplicity of languages across the globe. "There's a political basis for me to learning other languages, because if we don't come together in the world then the world's not going to make it."

MUSICIANS:

One Direction: One Direction vowed to learn at least 20 of the most common words in the languages of the countries they're visiting before they land. They realised that learning a language would help them to communicate to fans and the press after feeling a culture shock when visiting Japan recently.

SPORTS PEOPLE:

Ellen MacArthur: "I absolutely could not have competed at the level I did in sailing if I hadn't spoken French fluently. I wouldn't have integrated with the other sailors in the same way, and nor would I have been as successful in gaining sponsorship, because speaking French opened up a whole new world of interviews and avenues for funding. The French people really did take me under their wing." [Speaking French has been central to the success of former round-the-world sailor Ellen MacArthur.](#)

Arsène Wenger: Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal football team manager, can speak French, German, English, Spanish, Italian and a little Japanese. Wenger promotes language learning and the benefits it can bring to your career – "I would like to take this opportunity to say how advantageous it can be... To have knowledge of foreign languages... I would have no hesitation in advising people of any age to learn another language".

WRITERS:

Stephen Fry: Stephen is currently learning to speak German, and is enjoying the learning process every step of the way.

JK Rowling: JK Rowling has a French and Classics degree; and studied for a year in Paris. Her knowledge of the language is actually evident in many of the fabricated words and names that she included in the stories, which have French as their basis. Examples are Beauxbatons, which means beautiful wands, Fleur Delacour from 'fleur' meaning

JOURNALIST:

Caroline Wyatt: Caroline is a BBC defence correspondent, and speaks French, German and some Russian. "Speaking the language makes a huge difference to how people relate to you, and the experience that you have of that country. It enables you to relate to people in a different way, and understand vital nuances that are otherwise lost. And knowing something of the language generally means you have at least tried to gain some understanding of the culture and history of a place, which is invaluable whether reporting or going somewhere on holiday." Caroline says: "Languages are a huge gift to give any child, as they open a whole different window on the world."

