

When Choosing a Foreign Language

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When choosing a foreign language, parents and students often consider . . .

. . . questions such as:

1. What is the requirement for the advanced diploma?
2. What is the high school language requirement of the university I want to attend?
3. What are the top countries that have trade with the United States?
4. What are the sizes of the economies of various countries?
5. What is the level of difficulty of the language I want to study?
6. What is the availability of the language(s) I want to study?

. . . and facts such as:

1. What is the requirement for the advanced diploma?

For an Advanced Diploma you will need

- 3 credits in one language, or
- 2 credits in each of two different foreign languages (4 credits total)

2. What is the high school language requirement of the university I want to attend?

Language requirements for admission vary widely. Each college's or university's Admission Office can best answer questions about its specific requirements. Call them! Despite these variations, it is our experience that 4 years of one language on your transcript will demonstrate the ability to study rigorous courses and sustain a strong commitment. Many consider it to be a good, risk-reducing strategy to begin serious study of a foreign language in freshmen year to prepare for applying to several colleges.



3. What are the top countries that have trade with the United States?

Top Ten Trading Partners of the United States

Country	Monthly Total (\$ Billions)	Year to Date (\$ Billions)
1. Canada	44.38	491.81
2. China	32.64	313.62
3. Mexico	29.00	307.26
4. Japan	18.05	190.41
5. Germany	11.26	118.73
6. U.K.	8.46	91.06
7. South Korea	6.46	71.61
8. Taiwan	5.31	56.07
9. France	5.02	56.22
10. Netherlands	4.18	44.19

Note: These countries together represent 68% of U.S. imports and 64% of U.S. Exports (in goods)

Note : Latest available figures for November 2006 (Figures are the sum of Imports and Exports)

Source: <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/top/dst/current/balance.html>

4. What are the sizes of the economies of various countries?

**Economic Ranking by Size of the Economy
Gross Domestic Product (2005)**

2. Japan	8. Spain
3. Germany	9. Canada
4. China	10. Brazil
5. U.K.	11. Korea, Rep.
6. France	12. India
7. Italy	13. Mexico

Note: The native language of countries in **bold** are available at LHS

Source: World Development Indicators database, World Bank 1 July 2006

5. What is the level of difficulty of the language I want to study?

Languages are categorized from **I** (easiest) to **IV** (hardest), based on the difficulty native speakers of American English may have in learning a foreign language.

Category I: English, **French**, Italian, Portuguese, and **Spanish**

Category II: **German**, Romanian

Category III: Czech, Greek, Hebrew, Persian-Farsi, Polish, **Russian**, Serbian/ Croatian, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

Category IV: Arabic, Chinese Mandarin, **Japanese**, and Korean

Note: Languages in **bold** are available at LHS

Source: Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

6. What is the availability of the language(s) I want to study?

At Langley High School we offer: French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish.