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title: "The Top Five Languages For Professionals"

description: "Five foreign languages that can help business professionals succeed."

category: languages

image: businessLang.jpg

Speaking a foreign language can make you a more competitive candidate for (international careers)[ http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/economic-intelligence/2014/01/29/the-business-benefits-of-learning-a-foreign-language] and increase your appeal when seeking jobs [stateside]( http://money.cnn.com/2013/10/30/news/economy/job-skills-foreign-language/), as well.

1. \*\*German\*\*: German is a highly versatile language spoken in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Germany currently has the [strongest economy in the EU](http://bit.ly/1xjGZds), and has [close business](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3997.htm) ties with the US. Since English and German are both Germanic languages, they share many similarities in grammar and vocabulary.

2. \*\*Spanish\*\*: There are [52.6 million]( http://nypost.com/2015/06/29/us-has-more-spanish-speakers-than-spain/) Spanish speakers in the US alone, many of whom own their own businesses. In addition there is a need for professional medical interpreters. In the last decade a lack of quality resources led to [mistakes costing millions]( <http://www.pacificinterpreters.com/docs/resources/high-costs-of-language-barriers-in-malpractice_nhelp.pdf>) in legal fees and settlements.

3. \*\*Chinese\*\*: Despite the recent devaluation of the Yuan, China continues to remain the [world’s second largest economy]( http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/china/overview) China is the [world’s largest exporter](<http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/chn/>), mainly in technology product, and its top export destination is the US. In 2014, China made [209 billion]( http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/visualize/tree\_map/hs92/export/chn/show/8471/2014/) through computers alone, which total 8.8 percent of their total exports. Out of this amount, 60 billion dollars’ worth was shipped to the USA. China make up 65% of the USA’s computers imports.

4. \*\*Korean\*\*: South Korea’s influence on global pop culture has exploded over the past decade, along with the power of its nation’s top brands. (<http://business.financialpost.com/news/retail-marketing/how-korea-became-the-worlds-coolest-brand>). In 2014, Samsung’s revenue was equal to [17%])http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-04-04/shell-glencore-and-other-multinationals-dominate-their-home-economies) of South Korea’s GDP, their television and smartphone products are [number one]( https://news.samsung.com/global/fast-facts) in market shares, and they employ [370,000 people]( <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-03-28/how-samsung-became-the-worlds-no-dot-1-smartphone-maker#p2>) globally. Korea itself is the [fifth largest]( http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/kor/) export economy, its top recipients being China and the US.

5. \*\*Arabic\*\*: There are a total of [230 million](http://www.vistawide.com/languages/top\_30\_languages.htm) Arabic speakers worldwide and according to Global Finance magazine, three Gulf countries make the top 10 richest countries in the world: Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia is the [top exporter]( http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/sau/) of crude petroleum and is home to [10.4 million expatriates]( http://www.saudi-expatriates.com/2015/05/foreign-workers-population-in-ksa.html). The [US government](https://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/a-national-security-crisis-foreign-language-capabilities-in-the-federal-government) also needs more Arabic speakers to act as translators and military personnel who can communicate with locals.

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