

# How to become a polyglot in 2020

**How do you become a polyglot? Is there a secret method that we don't know about? Or do you simply have to be a genius? Spoiler: the answer to both those questions is 'no'. According to polyglot Lýdia Machová the key to language learning is enjoyment. You have to find a way to enjoy the process. And the good news? The internet is here to help. From apps that help you learn new words and grammar to apps that connect you to native speakers around the world - there is something out there for everyone. In this Digi-doener students are going to look for ways to enjoy language learning - starting on YouTube and the App Store!**

**Duration: 1 hour.**

## STRUCTURE

- Introduction: What are polyglots?
- Next step: How do you become a polyglot? (including video +/- 10 minutes)
- In practice: Let's explore some apps for language learning.

## PREPARATION

You can prepare by:

- reading this teacher's guide and the students worksheet
- opening the presentation

## PERSONALISED LEARNING

In this Digi-doener the students are going to watch a 10 minute Ted Talk. Based on the listening skills of your

group, you can add English or even Dutch subtitles - both are available for this video.

Exercise 2 requires skills around note-taking and summarizing. Students might need some help with this. You can also do this exercise as a group.

Exercise 3 can also be done as a group. You can also add apps of your own choice or have students browse the App Store / Google Play Store themselves. If you want you can also download some of these apps or open them in your browser to try them out. You might need to sign up, so if you plan to do this it's easier to do so before class.

## WORK AND CAREER

Speaking multiple languages is a valuable skill. If you want to work in international trade, tourism, science or IT, English is key. But also if you are a bus driver, police officer, sales clerk, chef or healthcare professional it will really come in handy to speak multiple languages. Speaking another language connects you to another culture. Today we can learn almost anything online, including languages. There are many courses, apps, methods that all promise great results. But how do you find the right course, app or method for you? In this Digi-Doener students will compare multiple apps to find the right fit for them.

## ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Is it still necessary to actually learn a new language yourself or are translation apps enough?

## LEARNING TARGETS

Domein curriculum 2021	Leerdoelen digitale vaardigheden	Kerdoelen Engels	21st century skills
<b>1 De werking van het (creatieve) gebruik van digitale technologie</b> DG3.1 Interactie en creatie met digitale technologie.	<b>1 Mediawijsheid</b> De leerling weet wanneer welke toepassingen meerwaarde hebben bij het realiseren van professionele en sociale doelstellingen en kan deze effectief inzetten.	1 De leerling leert verder vertrouwd te raken met de klank van het Engels door veel te luisteren naar gesproken en gezongen teksten.	<b>1 Probleem oplossen</b>
<b>2 Digitale economie</b> DG6.1 Participatie in de platform-economie.	<b>2 Computational thinking</b> De leerling kan verschillen en overeenkomsten in oplossingen en problemen herkennen en categoriseren.	2 De leerling leert in Engelstalige schriftelijke en digitale bronnen informatie te zoeken, te ordenen en te beoordelen op waarde voor hemzelf en anderen.	<b>2 Kritisch denken</b>

## INTRODUCTION

### Opening slide

**Tell students:** this lesson is about language learning and how you can learn new languages. Discuss:

- Who knows what a polyglot is? Answer: someone who speaks a lot of languages.
- Do you know any polyglots? For example: politician Frans Timmermans, singer Shakira, actress Natalie Portman, football player Clarence Seedorf. But also Jackson Wang from the South-Korean group Got7 is a polyglot. Got7 is a K-pop group like BTS, Blackpink and G-Dragon.
- Would you want to be a polyglot?
- How many languages do you speak and how did you learn those languages? You can discuss the difference between being a 'native speaker' and learning a language later on in life.
- What languages would you like to speak? And why?



### Slide 2, work & career

#### Discuss:

- In what jobs do you need to speak other languages? Answer: in different fields such as tourism, hospitality, international trade, politics, science, IT, etc. But also if you work in healthcare, as a police officer, as a train conductor, a stores clerk, a server in a restaurant, a chef, a musician, etc.)
- Is it still necessary to actually learn a new language or are translation apps enough?  
(Voice) translation apps are great and come in handy when you are on holiday for example. But it doesn't replace actually speaking and understanding a language. If you learn a language, you learn about a culture too, so you know when (not) to take words literally, what (not) to say, etc.



### ★ TIP

If you want to convince students that translation apps aren't flawless, you can show them the following video where a YouTuber has put an Ed Sheeran song through multiple rounds of Google translate (for example English > French > Korean > back to English).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rte07sl3Vf4>

You can also find the Digi-Doener 'que what cosa wat' which focuses on translation apps. (<https://www.lessonup.com/app/embed/JcABDXsYmxwtSEHpi>)

Slide 3, Discussion and pairwork

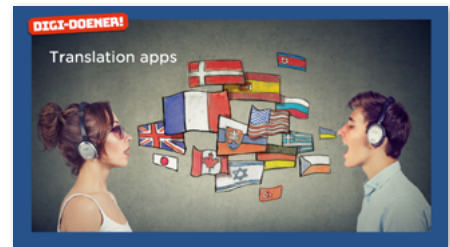
**ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Who among you has ever used a translation app? in which situations and which apps? Discuss briefly: Is it still necessary to actually learn a new language or are translation apps enough?

Possible arguments for learning a new language:

- Translation apps are useful for short conversations. They don't work very well for longer and deeper conversations
- Language is more than translating words, it's also about culture. You can't learn that from translation apps.
- Possible arguments for using translation apps:
  - Translation apps are very useful and keep getting better
  - With translation apps you can communicate in almost every language
  - With Voice you can just speak in your own language, and the app will translate it for you
  - With your smartphone you'll have unlimited access to translation apps

Let your students work in pairs on Exercises 1. Discuss the results, do they still feel the same about whether translation apps are enough or not?



**NEXT STEP**

Slide 4, Video + Pair work

Watch the video. Let your students work on Exercises 2 and 3. Discuss the answers.

Example answers Exercise 2:

- Do something you enjoy – choose a style that fits you
- Personal answers
- Personal answers. For example: start speaking from day one, watch your favourite series in a foreign language.

Example answers Exercise 3:

- **Enjoyment** find something you enjoy
- **Method** spaced repetition works: anki, memrise, goldlist method. Check out polyglots' YouTube channels
- **System** plan ahead – wake up 15 mins early, listen to podcast on the way to work etc. Create a plan, for example I will listen to YouTube video's while having breakfast, practice speaking for 20 mins on Wednesday.
- **Patience** have patience. It takes time, but there is nothing that motivates our more than our own success. There is no language gene. Find your own method.



**IN PRACTICE**

Slide 5, Group work

**Discuss:** has this video made you more excited about language learning or becoming a polyglot?

Have the students work on Exercise 3 and discuss the results.



## EVALUATION

### Slide 6, Group discussion

#### Discuss:

- What have you learned about language learning? For example: enjoyment is key, spaced repetition works, there are four skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing
- (How) does this affect the way you study English? Will you change anything?
- Are there any apps for language learning that you plan on using yourself?
- Apart from using apps, what other ways can you think of to work on learning a language? For example: change the subtitles settings in Netflix, listen to podcasts, talk to people in online games, look up the lyrics to songs that you like, etc

