

Example of BLC languages talk

Say "Good Morning" in 6 languages

- My name, title, who I work for and how long
- Aim of talk is to explain the importance of languages and why you should not dismiss the opportunity to study foreign languages
- Explain what languages have brought me

- Ask some of the pupils where they would like to travel in the world. Who has visited foreign Countries? Who paid? How would you like to do this and let someone else foot the bill?

Explain my background:

- Studied French at School from 11. Did not understand the importance. School exchange reversed my opinion.
- From that moment studied Russian then University French /Russian. As part of the course lived 1 year overseas
- Lived in Barcelona 4 years working for Spanish company. Learnt Spanish/Catalan. Quality of Life
- Lived 3 years in Moscow. Seen change from Communist to Capitalist society
- Back in UK
- Thinking in the language is a first time amazing reality

Jobs I have had:

Export Sales Manager and how all the above has given me a good life style, travelled to 60 countries regularly. Met many people and understand different cultures. People do not think I am English when they meet me. Not reserved.

Explain my job and my day to day role within the office
Could not have achieved and gained everything without Languages

Tell amusing incidents when travelling

Advantages of speaking Languages:

- People speak English overseas
 - You are different because you have a skill no one else has
 - Better job opportunities. Friends who are country managers/investment bankers
 - Being a student –Best time of your life
 - Financially more rewarding – more skills means more money
 - Pleasure speaking another language
 - Meet different people (school Exchange friend still 30 years later)
 - Understand Cultures
 - Become more tolerant
 - See many different places
 - Amusing
 - Travel extensively or live overseas as do most of my friends
 - Many jobs command high salaries especially when combined with other skills
 - Many of the above can be done without languages but more interesting with
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Materials required for activities:

Bring in email correspondence, airline tickets and passport as the basis of some role playing exercises.

Bring in some company brochures in different languages as part of role playing exercise.

Let students have a go at answering the telephone in French, regarding an inquiry for our products.

In summary..._____

They are missing a fantastic opportunity they have before them. Tie in the moment when I realised that on the school exchange I understood my Friend Jean-Luc and he understood me and at 17 I realised why French was important. Look where I am now. All because I took a life changing decision at 14/15 to study languages.