

# European Day of Languages



It has never been easier to talk to people around the globe. You could even use technology to speak to someone on the other side of the world right now! One thing that might stop you is not being able to speak the same language.

There are over 6,000 languages spoken worldwide. More than 200 of these come from Europe alone.



## What Is Europe?

Europe is the second-smallest continent on Earth. Europe is shared by 50 countries. Around 750 million people live in Europe.

The Council of Europe and the European Union think that all of the languages in Europe should be celebrated. They created a day dedicated to this. They called it the European Day of Languages.



## When Was the European Day of Languages Created?

The event was first celebrated in 2001. Since then, it has been celebrated annually across Europe on 26<sup>th</sup> September.



¡Hola!  
¿Qué tal?



## Why Was the European Day of Languages Created?

The Council of Europe believes that language skills are necessary for everyone. They believe that only speaking one language can stop people from taking part in lots of amazing experiences throughout their lives.

The Council of Europe and the European Union believe that:

- We should make sure that none of the languages spoken in Europe are forgotten or lost.
- People in Europe should try to be able to speak at least a small amount of two or more European languages.

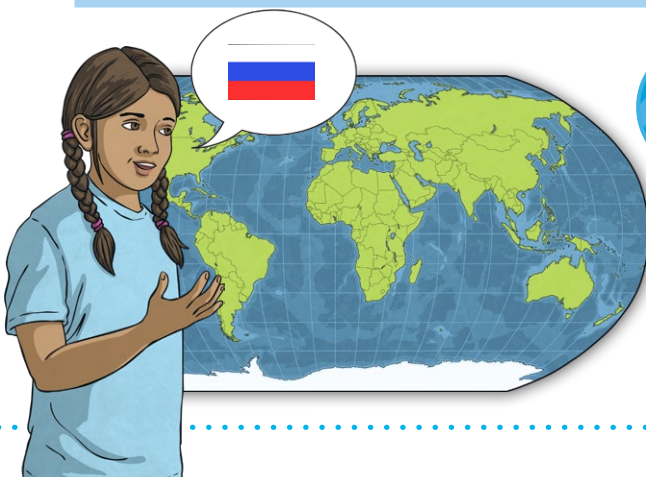
The Council of Europe hopes that learning new languages will also teach people about different cultures and traditions and that this will help everyone to respect each other.



## Why Should I Learn a New Language?

There are lots of great reasons to learn a new language. Being able to speak a few words of a new language when you are in another country can help you to find the things that you need. You can also enjoy a wide range of art, music and film that you may never have got to experience.

No one is too old to learn a new language and to enjoy the experiences that doing this may bring. While it is often thought to be easier to learn a new language as a child, it is never too late to start.



## Did You Know...?

Russian is the most widely spoken language in Europe. This is interesting because Russia is so large that it is actually in two continents! These are Europe and Asia.