



Do You Have Xenoglossophobia?

Language can make a difference

Target Audience: Individuals and couples considering living and retiring overseas.

Article Length: 1,500 - 2,000 words

Unique point of view: I'm an expat English teacher who has learned new languages wherever I've lived, and taught students from more than 15 countries.

Synopsis:

Xenoglossophobia is the fear of learning foreign languages and we all suffer from it at least a little. This article answers questions many prospective expats have about learning a new language.

We'll focus on the importance of learning the language of your adopted country, and how it could impact your expat experience. I'll explain several methods of learning as not all approaches are effective with all people.

I'll tell the story of how I learned to speak Greek when I was in the military and relate it to learning to speak Thai and other languages. I'll give a quick review of the languages spoken most in Southeast Asia and rate them for difficulty.

The meat of this article will focus on proven methods and hacks expats can use to pick up the language skills they need no matter where they are. I've been an English teacher since 2015 and my students range from Chinese five year olds, to college students trying to improve their IELTS scores, to Thai government workers learning presentation skills.

The purpose of this article is to allay the fears your readers have about learning a language, give them tools to improve their skills, and enhance their overall expat experience.

Interviews:

Gabe Owen - 62 year old American teaching business English for corporations like Mitsubishi, and Honda. TESOL expert.

Kanya Sochat - 43 year old Thai teacher and language expert.

Don Battles - 93 year old American expat in Thailand 40+ years and fluent Thai speaker.