# Language Difficulty Ranking

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) has created a list to show the approximate time you need to learn a specific language as an English speaker.

## 1 — 23-24 weeks (575-600 hours)

Languages closely related to English

- Afrikaans
- Danish
- Dutch
- French
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Norwegian

## 2 — 30 weeks (750 hours)

Languages similar to English

- German

## 3 — 36 weeks (900 hours)

Languages with linguistic and/or cultural differences from English

- Indonesian
- Malaysian
- Swahili

## 4 — 44 weeks (1100 hours)

Languages with significant linguistic and/ or cultural differences

- Polish ❤
- Russian
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Bulgarian
- Hindi
- Armenian
- Ukrainian
- *Vietnamese
- Turkish
- Persian (Dari, Farsi, Tajik)
- more
  - Xhosa
  - Uzbek
  - Urdu
  - *Thai
  - Tagalog
  - Slovenian
  - Slovak
  - Sinhala
  - Serbian
  - Zulu
  - Pashto
  - Nepali
  - *Mongolian
  - Macedonian
  - Latvian Lithuanian
  - Lao
  - Khmer
  - Icelandic
  - *Hungarian
  - *Georgian
  - *Finnish
  - Czech
  - Albanian
  - *Estonian
  - Croatian
  - Burmese
  - Bosnian
  - Bengali
  - Azerbaijani
  - Amharic

## 5 — 88 weeks (2200 hours)

Languages which are exceptionally difficult for native English

- Arabic
- Cantonese (Chinese)
- Mandarin (Chinese)
- *Japanese
- Korean

• Languages preceded by asterisks are usually more difficult for native English speakers to learn than other languages in the same category.

www.kleinhirn.eu

http://www.effectivelanguagelearning.com/language-guide/language-Difficulty