

# Put this on your resume!

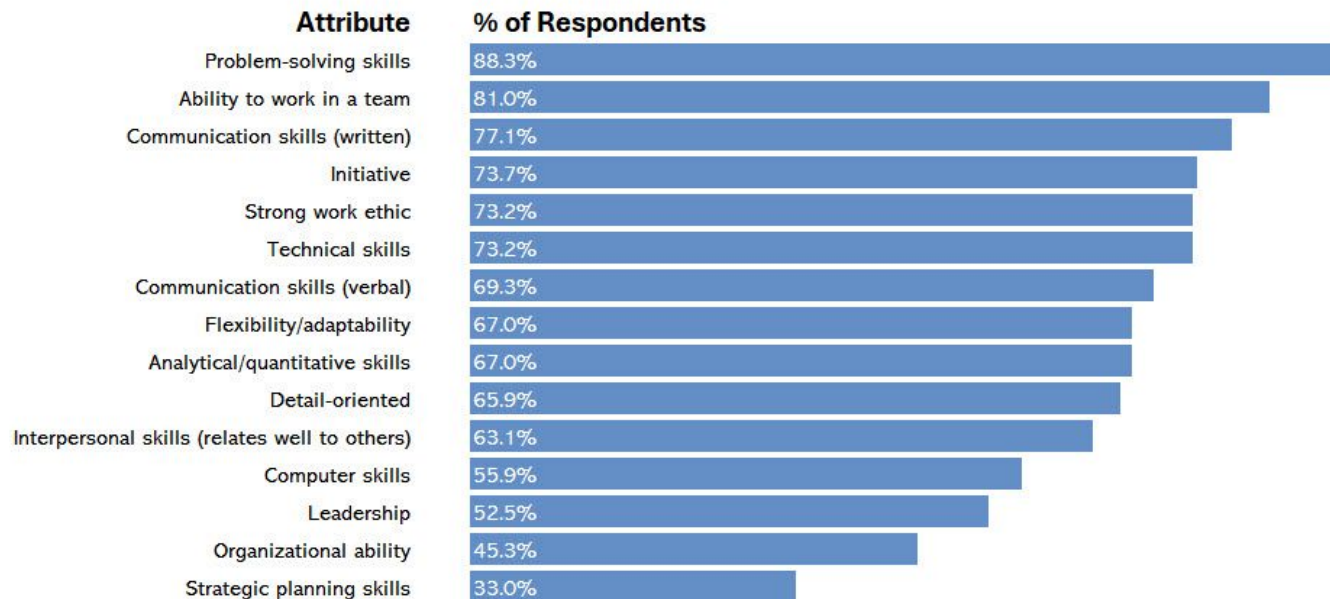
Top skills employers want

And how you're acquiring them  
by learning a language

Career Readiness and WLC

**Figure 1**

**Attributes Employers Seek on a Candidate's Resume**



Source: Job Outlook 2025  
National Association of College and Employers

# How does language learning help you get career-ready?

1. **Problem-solving and critical thinking:** language learning fundamentally fosters problem-solving skills and critical thinking. A language is a system, which you can analyze by inferring, reasoning, and applying learned concepts to new ones. In a language class, you learn how to break down complex information into smaller parts and identify patterns. From learning and applying new vocabulary to understanding complex texts, learning a new language enhances your ability to analyze information, identify relevant details, and discern misleading or irrelevant information, all of which are key to effective problem-solving.
2. **Teamwork and interpersonal skills:** languages are social constructs enriched by the diversity of their speakers. When people with different expertise and backgrounds come together to negotiate meaning, it sparks a rich exchange of ideas and innovative solutions. This diversity fuels creativity, enabling team members to tackle problems from various angles and draw on their unique experiences. Whether you are working together to create a dialogue, helping another classmate learn something new, acting out a skit as a group, or completing a group project, you practice teamwork and crucial interpersonal skills.
3. **Communication skills:** language learning is all about communication, enhancing written, verbal and active listening skills that are vital to prospective employers to ensure the smooth delivery of projects, streamlined processes, and a healthy work environment. As a language learner, you inherently develop presentation skills, conflict resolution, and negotiation, through a variety of in-class and at-home activities such as in-class presentations or written papers.

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4. **Initiative and enthusiasm:** learning a new skill like a language shows initiative, as it requires self-motivation, proactive effort, and constant study and practice outside the classroom. You're also showing resourcefulness by finding creative ways to learn and practice, such as using apps or online communities. Learning a new language can be challenging, but it is always fun and rewarding. When you are learning a new language, you are effectively showing a prospective employer how you overcome challenges by being driven and persistent.
5. **Flexibility and adaptability:** as you learn a new language, you will most likely step outside your comfort zone, building your confidence and flexibility. Switching between languages also improves cognitive flexibility, and experiencing new cultures helps you to interact with others. Multilingual people are usually more adaptable and flexible in new situations, thanks to their experience in dealing with different linguistic and cultural contexts. This adaptability can lead to more success in your career, and help you fit in anywhere as a flexible and resilient employee.
6. **Organizational and strategic planning skills:** in today's interconnected world, understanding and communicating in multiple languages is crucial for networking, accessing a variety of markets, and building relationships with global partners. Learning a language will help you gain invaluable insight into global trends and give access to a wider range of information, resources and opportunities. Speaking multiple languages can unlock exciting job opportunities and career paths, especially in sectors where language skills are crucial, like international business, diplomacy, medical care, translation, interpretation, and education.