



記得在第一節葡文課中，老師第一句便說 "葡文是一種藝術。" 當時根本不明白她在說甚麼，後來越學越有興趣，遂下決心要學好葡文。

葡文和英文有很大的分別。每個葡文字有自己獨特的讀音及串法。葡文的文法更具挑戰性，大多數的葡文字都有性別之分。陽性用的名詞以 "o" 結尾，陰性則用 "a"。最初學的時候有一定的難度，但在老師的鼓勵下，加上自己肯下苦功，我的葡文閱讀及寫作技巧進步很快，已沒有最初想像中那麼困難。很可惜，這個葡語課程只維持了兩年，此後便沒有機會再學習了。

當我入讀洛杉磯南加州大學以後，才領悟到葡文有用之處。在 LA，大部分市民會講西班牙語，西班牙語和葡語沒有很大分別，以我兩年的葡語

基礎，與西班牙人溝通不成問題。有了葡語的基礎，我很快學會了不少西班牙語。在學習的過程中，我也認識了很多新朋友，互作交流，互相促進。

每一種語言都是一種藝術，雖然在學習新語言的過程中會遇到不少困難，但能學好一種語言，往往會得到意想不到的收穫和回報。現在我已能流利地講五種不同的語言。學好外語不僅能帶給我各種好處，還帶給了我很多新朋友，擴展了我的生活面，有助於將來投身社會。我深信，如果我們每個人都能踢開對學習新語言的那種恐懼，澳門市民便會擁有更大的競爭力，失業率便會下降，我們的社會將更加繁榮穩定。

Lawrence

學 好 外 語 自 我 增 值

語言是溝通的橋樑。如果人類只用 "身體語言" 去溝通，意思往往會表達不清楚，易產生誤會甚至引起爭端。澳門市民大多只會說廣東話，如果能說一些普通話或英語便覺得很了不起了。不少人以 "我沒有能力" 作藉口來逃避學習新語言。現今社會競爭激烈，語言就是競爭的本錢，作為一位赴外求學的留學生，深感多學外語是成功的第一步。

我從九歲開始便在國際學校學習外語。除了廣東話、國語及英文，很幸運在初中一年級時開始學習葡語。到現在，我仍十分感激母校給予我們這個學習外語的機會。

Learning New Language- A Path to Success

Language is the bridge of communication. Try to imagine, how difficult it will be if people just utilize non-verbal ways such as hand gestures and facial expressions to communicate! Nowadays, a lot of people in Hong Kong and Macau feel proud of themselves just because they can speak Cantonese, a little bit of Mandarin or English. These people sometimes ignore the opportunities to learn a new foreign language, and they just use the phrase "I cannot do it" as an excuse. However, in today's business world, foreign language skill is one of the major competitive elements to fight for jobs. As an international student who studies abroad, I strongly agree with it.

I remembered that my parents sent me to an international school to learn different languages since nine years old. Besides Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, I had a great opportunity to learn Portuguese when I was in Form 1. This course lasted for two years. I deeply appreciate the decision of my mother college that provides students with the chances to learn different foreign languages throughout their college life.

"Learning Portuguese is a piece of beautiful art." it was the first thing I heard about Portuguese from my teacher during my first Portuguese class. At that time, I was so confused. What is she talking about? I was so interested in and felt very energetic learning this new piece of art.

Portuguese is completely different from English. Each Portuguese word has its own way to spell and pronounce. None of the Portuguese word is related to English. In addition, the grammar rules in Portuguese are quite challenging because Portuguese nouns are categorized by genders. Portuguese nouns for males usually are ended with "o," while nouns for females are ended with "a." It took me over a month to get accustomed to these

"troublesome rules." At first, I wanted to give up because I had to memorize a lot of new rules. However, with my teacher and uncle's encouragement, my Portuguese speaking and writing skills improved a lot shortly. Learning Portuguese was not as difficult as I first thought. At the end of the two-year course, I really missed learning Portuguese and I had no chance to practice speaking and writing Portuguese since then.

How helpful Portuguese is? I recognized its great use when I first entered University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. One may ask, people in Los Angeles usually speak English, how is it related to Portuguese? However, a huge majority of people in Los Angeles speaks a foreign language, Spanish. Spanish is different from Portuguese but it is somehow related to Portuguese in its grammar rules pronunciation. With my Portuguese knowledge, I can understand (though not completely) my Spanish classmates when I communicate with them. In such a way, I learned Spanish quickly by communicating with my Spanish classmates, and thus, I knew a group of Spanish speakers who share the Spanish culture with me.

Any language is a piece of art. It may be difficult to learn how to speak or write a certain language fluently, but learning a new language is very rewarding. Right now, I can speak five languages fluently. Learning new languages does not only help me in my studies, but it also enriches my life experiences by communicating with people who speak different languages. In addition, learning various languages also prepares me to compete with other university students for jobs. I really hope that people in Macau can understand the great benefit of learning a new language and try their best to learn it. The more language one knows, the more competitive he/she is. The more competitive our citizens are, the lower the unemployment rate.

Lawrence