

Selected Opportunities and Resources: Language & Linguistics

This list features some excellent opportunities available to middle and high school students.

Visit our website at cty.jhu.edu/imagine for links to additional summer programs, competitions, and recommended websites.

COMPETITIONS

American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Competitions

actr.org/contests

National Russian Essay Contest

Middle and high school students have two hours to write an essay in Russian on an annual topic. Medals and certificates are awarded.

Olympiada of Spoken Russian

Middle and high school students of Russian compete for medals in categories such as Russian conversation, poetry recitation, and Russian civilization at the state, regional, and international level.

National French Contest

Grades 7–12. In this annual competition, teachers register students in grades 7–12 to take a written test and compete for medals and certificates.

frenchteachers.org/concours

National German Exam

High school students in the second, third, and fourth level of German take an electronic, multiple-choice exam that targets proficiency levels in listening and reading within their given level. Results are used to select recipients of chapter awards and the national AATG/PAD Study Trip Awards, a four-week study trip program in Germany. aatg.org/?page=NGE

National Greek Exam

Middle and high school students may participate in competitions offered in multiple categories and levels. Top-scoring high school seniors are eligible to apply for scholarships.

aclclassics.org/National-Student-Exams/National-Greek-Exam

National Italian Exam

This exam for high school students is offered in three categories and at six levels. Students have 70 minutes to complete the 75-question exam online. aati.uark.edu/aati-national-exam

National Japan Bowl

Schools send teams of students studying Japanese to compete in Washington, DC, where they answer questions about the language, culture, society, and history of Japan. Participants receive certificates, T-shirts, and trophies.

japanbowl.org

National Latin Exam

Teachers register Latin students, who take a 40-question, 45-minute, multiple-choice test. Prizes include ribbons, certificates, medals, and scholarships. nle.org

National Spanish Exam

This exam, for students of teachers who are members of the AATSP, is offered in three categories and at eight levels to accommodate students with a variety of backgrounds in Spanish. AATSP awards plaques to the nation's top three scorers. Students scoring above the 75th percentile are eligible to apply for scholarships.

nationalspanishexam.org

North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO)

High school students solve language-based puzzles that test their skills in logic, pattern recognition, analytical thinking, and problem-solving. Top-scoring students go on to compete at the International Linguistics Olympiad (2018: Prague, Czechoslovakia). (See page 12 for an article about this competition.)

nacloweb.org

Scripps National Spelling Bee

Students in eighth grade or below compete at the school, regional, and national level, where the winner receives a \$40,000 cash prize. (See page 8 for an article about this competition.)

spellingbee.com

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Grades specified refer to students' 2017–2018 status. All programs are residential unless otherwise noted.

Concordia Language Villages (MN)

Ages 7–18; 1–4 weeks. Students choose an immersion program from among 15 foreign languages, for varying levels of ability.

concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages

Duke University TIP (multiple sites)

Grades 7–11; 3 weeks. Course offerings include Creative Writing; The Pen as Weapon: The Art of Satire; Speculative Fiction; Spoken Word: Storytelling, Podcasting, and Slam Poetry; and Words that Matter: Rhetoric and Persuasion.

tip.duke.edu

Harvard Secondary School (MA)

Grades 10–12; 2–7 weeks; residential and commuter. Course offerings include Arabic, Chinese, French, Greek, Historical Linguistics, Introduction to African Languages and Cultures, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Zulu.

summer.harvard.edu/high-school-programs

Johns Hopkins University CTY (multiple sites)

Grades 7–12; 3 weeks. Course offerings include Etymologies and Linguistics, as well as the following writing courses: Advanced Fiction; Crafting the Essay; Creative Nonfiction; Fiction and Poetry; Freaks and Geeks in Popular Media; The Graphic Novel; Utopias and Dystopias; and Whodunit? Mystery and Suspense in Literature and Film. In addition, CTY offers online world language courses in Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish to students in grades 2–12 at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels. (See page 16 for an article about this program.) cty.jhu.edu/summer

Middlebury Language Academy (multiple sites)

Grades 7–11; 4 weeks. Students study Arabic, Chinese, French, German, or Spanish in Vermont, or Chinese, French, or Spanish abroad.

middleburyinteractive.com/summer-language-academy/summer-language-immersion-teens

Northwestern University CTD (IL)

Grades 7–12; 3 weeks; residential and commuter. A variety of on-campus writing seminars, master classes, and workshops are offered. Online course offerings include Latin and Spanish.

ctd.northwestern.edu/summer

Penn Summer Pre-College Program (PA)

Grades 10–11; 6 weeks. Course offerings include American Sign Language and Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Also available is an online course in Beginning Business Chinese. sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/high-school/pre-college

Stanford University Summer Session (CA)

Grades 9–12; 8–9 weeks; residential and commuter. Course offerings include Chinese; French; German; Japanese; Language Evolution and Change; The Role of Language in Perception and Cognition; and Spanish. summer.stanford.edu/program/high-school

Summer Linguistics Institute for Youth Scholars (OH)

Grades 8–11; 1–2 weeks; residential and commuter. On the campus of Ohio State University, students gain a deeper understanding of languages and language study through classwork, project-based work, and guest speakers.

linguistics.osu.edu/sliys

University of Virginia Summer Language Institute (VA)

Grades 10–11; 8 weeks; commuter. Courses are offered in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Latin, Russian, Spanish, and Tibetan.

sli.virginia.edu

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

American Association of Teachers of German Summer Study Program for High School Students (Germany)

Ages 15–17; 3 weeks. Students engage in a homestay and school experience in which they attend classes and live with the family of a host brother or sister who attends the school.

aatg.org/?page=summerstudy

American Farm School Greek Summer (Greece)

Grades 9–12; 4 weeks. This program combines service learning with an introduction to Greek language, culture, and current issues. The core experience is the homestay, where participants live and work together to complete a community service project. Participants also visit cultural and historic sites and engage in eco-adventures.

afs.edu.gr/greek-summer-program

American Field Service (multiple sites)

Grades 9–12; 2–8 weeks. Students live with a host family in countries around the world.

afsusa.org/study-abroad/programs

Amigos (multiple sites)

Ages 13–22; 2–9 weeks. Summer volunteer programs for high school students allow participants to become immersed in Central or South American culture, improve Spanish skills, and work on community service projects related to areas such as public health, leadership through sports, civic engagement, youth entrepreneurship, and environmental sustainability.

amigosinternational.org

Aspect Foundation Programs Abroad (multiple sites)

Grades 9–12; 3–7 weeks. Students study at a high school in France, Japan, or Spain.

aspectfoundation.org/study-abroad

AYUSA Study Abroad (multiple sites)

Grades 9–12; duration varies. Students participate in an intensive language camp or a traditional study-abroad program in Japan or Germany.

ayusa.org/students

Brown Pre-College Location-Based Programs (multiple sites)

Grades 10–12; 2 weeks. In *On Location: Rome* and *On Location: Segovia*, students study topography and history and learn basic Italian or Spanish, respectively, through seminars, site visits, and workshops. precollege.brown.edu

Columbia University Summer Programs (Spain)

Grades 10–11; 3 weeks. In *The Barcelona Experience*, students study at the University of Barcelona (curriculum taught in English, supplemented by Spanish-language workshop), live in residence halls, and participate in cultural and recreational activities in and around Barcelona. sps.columbia.edu/highschool/summer-immersion/Barcelona

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (Germany)

Grades 9–12; 1 year. In this full-immersion program, students live with a host family, attend a local high school, meet government officials, and take cultural excursions. Funded by the U.S. State Department, CBYX does not require previous language experience. usgermanyscholarship.org

Experiment in International Living (multiple sites)

Grades 9–12; 3–6 weeks. Summer immersion programs are available in China, France, Italy, Japan, or Spain. experiment.org

The Irish Way (Ireland)

Grades 8–12; 4 weeks. This cultural and academic program consists of classes, workshops, and tours based in three locations throughout Ireland to introduce students to Irish language, history, and literature. irishway.org

National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) (multiple sites)

Ages 14–18; duration varies. The U.S. Department of State awards merit-based scholarships to high school students to study abroad in immersion programs in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian, Russian, or Turkish. (See page 14 for an article about this program.) nsliforyouth.org

Tufts University Summit (France)

Grades 11–12; 4 weeks. At Tufts' European Center in Talloires, students take a college-level course on international relations, live with a host family, and experience French culture. ase.tufts.edu/europeanCenter/programs

University of Dallas Latin in Rome (Italy)

Grades 11–12; 3 weeks. Students who have taken at least three years of high school Latin explore Latin language, history, and culture. udallas.edu/travel

WEBSITES

BBC Languages

This site showcases useful phrases in 40 languages and provides comprehensive lessons in French, Chinese, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. bbc.co.uk/languages

DARE Fieldwork Recordings

Here you'll find fieldwork recordings made between 1965 and 1970 of interviews with over 1,000 individuals from across the U.S. obtained during the making of the *Dictionary of American Regional English*. The dictionary, which documented words, phrases, and pronunciations unique to various regions of the U.S., provides fascinating insights into aspects of regional life and the history of the U.S. uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/amerlangs

Enduring Voices

This *National Geographic* project set out to document endangered languages around the world. Meet the project team, see the expeditions, and visit the project's Talking Dictionaries to learn about the indigenous languages and communities studied. nationalgeographic.org/projects/enduring-voices

English Language Timeline

On this interactive site, you can find detailed information on the first recorded conversation, explore the *Magna Carta* and Edward VI's diary, peruse a medieval encyclopedia, and more. bl.uk/learning/langlit/timeline/index.html

Language Matters

What do we lose when a language dies? What does it take to save a language? This two-hour PBS documentary examines those questions through interviews with linguists, poets, and songwriters. pbs.org/program/language-matters

Lexicon Valley

From *Slate* magazine comes this podcast about language, on topics such as how children learn to read and the incorporation of the word "like" into our everyday speech. slate.com/articles/podcasts/lexicon_valley

Omniglot

This site features thousands of language-related links, including blogs, linguistic and cultural exchanges, counting systems for over 90 languages, spellcheckers for a variety of languages, translations of popular English songs, and much more. omniglot.com/links/language.htm

Open Culture

Lose yourself for a few hours (or a few days) on this site, which features a searchable list of hundreds of free courses, including lessons in 48 languages, as well as eBooks, lectures, guest readings, and films—many in French, Korean, or Russian. openculture.com

The Speech Accent Archive

Researchers at George Mason University had an idea: Have people from all over the world read the same paragraph, in English, and record it in order to examine key predictors of accents. The result is a fascinating archive where you can listen to a wide variety of accents and draw your own conclusions. accent.gmu.edu

Studyabroad.com

This resource provides information on scores of study abroad programs and scholarship opportunities, features student-written blogs about personal experiences abroad, and more. studyabroad.com

APPS

Babbel

With a focus on conversational learning, this app provides lessons in 13 languages, including Polish, Indonesian, and Norwegian.

Busuu

Here you'll find a comprehensive, interactive language learning experience—for a fee. (Basic flashcards are free.)

Duolingo

This app, which focuses on language learning through repetition, is both fun and free.

Google Translate

Enter text in up to 103 languages, and this app provides an instant translation into the language of your choice. Also available are voice, image, and handwriting translations.

Memrise

This app's adventure-based method of practicing and expanding vocabulary makes for a fun learning experience.

Naver Papago Translate

This app is known for its high-quality Asian-language translations.

Tandem

With this app, you can converse with native speakers—among the best ways to truly learn a language.

TripLingo

If you're traveling, this app, which includes slang translations, could come in handy.

BOOKS

The Adventure of English: The Biography of a Language by Melvyn Bragg (Arcade Publishing, 2011).

The Conlanger's Lexipedia by Mark Rosenfelder (CreateSpace, 2013).

The Elvish Writing Systems of J.R.R. Tolkien by Matthew D. Coombes (Independent Publishing, 2016).

The Emoji Code: The Linguistics Behind Smiley Faces and Scaredy Cats by Vyvyan Evans (Picador, 2017).

Through the Language Glass: Why the World Looks Different in Other Languages by Guy Deutscher (Picador, 2011).

The Unexpected Evolution of Language: Discover the Surprising Etymology of Everyday Words by Justin Cord Hayes (Adams Media, 2012).

Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries by Kory Stamper (Vintage, 2018).

Words on the Move: Why English Won't—and Can't—Sit Still (Like, Literally) by John McWhorter (Picador, 2017).

A World Without "Whom": The Essential Guide to Language in the BuzzFeed Age by Emmy J. Favilla (Bloomsbury USA, 2017).

FILMS

Languages can lend an air of authenticity to a film, further the plot—or even serve as the central focus. Following is a brief list of films in which language figures prominently.

Amistad

This 1997 film recounts the story of the Mende tribesmen who revolted against their abductors in 1839 aboard the slave ship *La Amistad*. With its strong focus on African culture and identity, the film highlights language differences and the challenges of communicating between vastly different cultures.

Arrival

A host of linguists, scholars, and Stephen Wolfram, founder of the technical computing system Mathematica, all contributed to the science behind this smart 2016 film in which humans struggle to communicate with aliens.

Atlantis: The Lost Empire

Linguist Marc Okrand, noted for having developed *Star Trek's* Klingon language, also constructed the Atlantean language for this 2001 animated science-fiction film.

Conlanging: The Art of Crafting Tongues

This 2017 documentary recounts the history of constructed languages, from the elvish languages of Tolkien to the language spoken by the Na'vi people in *Avatar*.

Enemy Mine

In this 1985 sci-fi thriller, two castaways—one human, the other from an alien planet—learn to communicate despite the vast differences between them and their respective English and Drac languages.

Koko: A Talking Gorilla

This 1978 documentary tells the fascinating story of Stanford University professor Penny Patterson's attempts to teach a gorilla to communicate using American Sign Language.

The Linguists

This 2008 documentary features the work and adventures of scholars K. David Harrison and Greg Anderson as they travel the world documenting languages on the verge of extinction.

The Miracle Worker

This is the dramatic 1962 account of the story of Helen Keller, the blind and deaf girl who learns to communicate with the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

My Fair Lady

In this 1964 classic, cocky Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle meets her match in Professor Henry Higgins, a phoneticist who bets that he can teach her to, well, talk like a lady.

Nell

This 1994 drama is based on the true story of a girl who lived such an isolated existence that she never developed the ability to speak. A local doctor and a researcher who works with autistic children aim to change that.

Stargate

In this 1994 sci-fi adventure, a professor and a retired army colonel travel to another planet, where—among other things—they speak a reconstruction of ancient Egyptian created by real Egyptologist Stuart Tyson Smith.