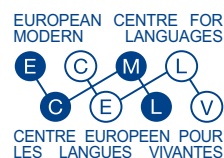




2026

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES ACTIVITY KIT



WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES?

The European Day of Languages is an annual initiative launched by the Council of Europe and the European Commission in 2001. It is celebrated every year on 26 September and aims to promote linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe.

The main aims of the Day are to raise public awareness of the importance of language learning, to highlight all the languages spoken in Europe and to promote multilingualism. It also aims to encourage intercultural dialogue and strengthen mutual understanding between different cultures and language communities. Languages are much more than simple means of communication. They are living witnesses to the history, culture and identity of each people.

This year's motto for the Day, "**Languages unite!**", highlights the important role languages play in bringing people together, fostering curiosity about other cultures, and helping to bridge linguistic and cultural divides. For 2026 we are offering a fresh set of creative challenges, new resources, competitions, posters, games as well as a showcase for the events taking place in celebration of languages.

ACTIVITY KIT LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

The activities in this kit are suitable for any age and can be carried out individually, in groups, together with a class, or even at whole-school level. Whether a beginner or already familiar with one or more languages, these fun and educational activities aim to arouse curiosity and inspire.

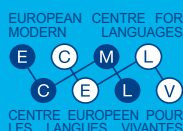
Explore languages through interactive games, linguistic puzzles, riddles and much more. Encounter the peculiarities of languages, their melodious sounds, intriguing alphabets and charming idioms. The 13 activities in this kit, along with many, many more, are available in a wide variety of languages on the EDL website - you can choose your language from among those represented on the bar below.



Share any activities you organise with others by entering the details into the official [EDL events calendar](#) (and download an official event certificate!).

Start exploring the EDL website!

edl.ecml.at



ACTIVITY 1

EDL CLASS LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Involve your class in the EDL 2026 language challenge! Students complete a series of short, fun language “missions”, and upload one piece of evidence to receive an official EDL challenge certificate.

This year, we aim to make the initiative bigger than ever by encouraging as many students as possible to participate simultaneously – potentially setting a new record for the largest language challenge ever organised! The activity can be carried out using the forthcoming “create your own language challenge” tool.



Deadline for submissions: 15 October 2026

Group / class / whole school activity

Get a certificate for your class!

edl.ecml.at/challenge2026



ACTIVITY 2

POSTER COMPETITION: LANGUAGES UNITE!

Create a poster illustrating this year's EDL-motto 'Languages unite!'. This can use artwork, symbols and quotes to reflect how languages bring people together and serve as a vehicle for reaching across linguistic and cultural divides.

Deadline for submissions: 15 October 2026

Here are some examples from previous years >>>

Individual / group / class / whole school activity



Start creating now!

edl.ecml.at/languagesunite



ACTIVITY 3

SELF-EVALUATE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

The 'Self-evaluate your language skills' tool helps you to assess your level of proficiency in the languages you know according to six reference levels described in the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR). The tool draws on the CEFR's self-assessment grid.

Self-evaluation test questions are available in multiple languages.

You can download your evaluation results as a PDF.

Individual / group / class activity

A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2

Get a certificate illustrating your language skills!
edl.ecml.at/languageskills



ACTIVITY 4

NAME IT! – THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY GAME

Give your vocabulary a quick workout! Test your vocabulary, challenge your memory, and explore words across multiple languages. A fun and simple way to refresh and expand your everyday language skills.

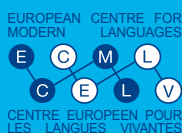
Choose a category, select the language you want to explore, and see if you can recall the word before the timer runs out. After a few seconds, the correct expression appears.

A simple way to refresh and expand your everyday vocabulary.

Individual / group activity



Try the game here!
edl.ecml.at/Fun/Name-it



ACTIVITY 5

CREATE YOUR OWN LANGUAGE CHALLENGE HANDOUT FOR YOUR STUDENTS

This tool allows teachers to create a personalised language challenges handout for their students.

Select challenges from different skill areas or add your own, and generate a ready-to-use PDF! The handout encourages learners to practise languages beyond the classroom through authentic, motivating activities.



Group / class / whole school activity

Start creating now!

edl.ecml.at/handout



ACTIVITY 6

20 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD OF LANGUAGES

This series of posters, available in over 15 languages, can be used in the classroom to start a discussion on a variety of topics. For example, did you know that the French language has 16 different ways of writing the sound "o" or that only 5% of Portuguese speakers live in Portugal?

This year's poster showcases 20 things you might not know about Sign languages.

Group / class activity



Download the posters

edl.ecml.at/posters



ACTIVITY 7

LARA'S LANGUAGE JOURNEYS

Join Lara on her exciting journeys through the languages of Europe!



Lara's language journey across Europe – focuses on major European languages and language families. It introduces different writing scripts, basic greetings, fun facts and highlights how neighbouring languages are connected. For ages 10 and up.



Lara's journey through Europe's regional and minority languages – explores the fascinating world of regional and minority languages. It highlights local cultural heritage and encourages respect for linguistic diversity beyond national borders. For ages 14 and up.



NEW: Lara's language journey through Italy – showcases the country's rich linguistic heritage, revealing a wealth of engaging and often surprising insights into the many languages that shape its cultural landscape.

Individual / group / class activity

Includes audio files in the individual languages!

Includes a language tree!



Find it all here!

edl.ecml.at/languagejourney



ACTIVITY 8

LISTEN AND GUESS THE LANGUAGE

Listen carefully! *Can you guess which language it is?* Thirty-eight audio recordings are available on the EDL website. You may recognise some of the languages. You will be challenged to discover less common languages, perhaps even some languages you have never heard before.

Language 1 (out of 38):



Swedish? Estonian?
Croatian? Walloon?



Individual / class activity

See how many you can recognise!

edl.ecml.at/whichlanguage



ACTIVITY 9

“WHERE AM I?” GAME

You will be shown 20 random images from all over Europe. Can you identify where those photos were taken? Use your language skills and the virtual magnifying glass to find clues that will lead you to the right place. Good luck!

And: You can also submit your own photos of places to guess. Your photos will then be included in the quiz on the official European Day of Languages website.



Individual / class activity

Let the games begin!

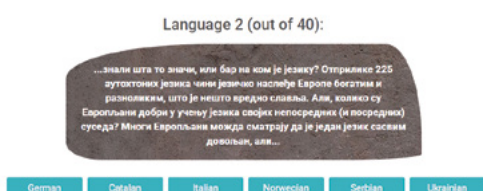
edl.ecml.at/whereamI



ACTIVITY 10

ARE YOU A LANGUAGE DETECTIVE?

Can you recognise all the languages being displayed in the game? The game features 40 languages! Even if you don't succeed at first, remember to try, try and try again!



On the same page you will also find the fascinating story of the Rosetta Stone. This ancient artifact, discovered in 1799, held the key to understanding the enigmatic hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt.



Individual / group / class activity

Try the game here!

edl.ecml.at/languagedetective



ACTIVITY 11

“LINGUINE” LANGUAGE BOARD GAME

“Linguine” is a fun, educational board game created to celebrate the European Day of Languages. The name comes from the Italian word, literally meaning “little tongues”, reflecting long, flat, ribbon-like shape of linguine, that resemble thin tongues.

The game seeks to test players’ knowledge of the many and varied languages native to the continent of Europe. Linguistic diversity enriches communication and culture, just as culinary diversity does with food! The game is primarily designed to be played in a classroom setting.

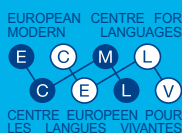
Working together in teams, players advance on their journey by answering questions and taking challenges about languages.



Groups of 2-6 players

Download the game and the manual!

edl.ecml.at/boardgame



ACTIVITY 12

THE LANGUAGE CHALLENGE APP AND HANDBOOK

As a 'secret agent' you are going to visit new places and foreign lands. A good agent needs to be confident about his/her language skills to ensure never to reveal their identity! Therefore you will need to be able to speak foreign languages as fluently as possible. The language challenges in the app and handbook mostly relate to authentic, everyday communication tasks that agents need to be prepared for!

Try your hand at being a secret agent, either with the handbook or the app – both available in 31 languages.

Individual / group / class activity



Download the app
and the handbook here!

edl.ecml.at/languagechallenges



ACTIVITY 13

WORD OF THE YEAR

Discover words that have been chosen as "Word of the Year" by publishers and media organisations across a range of countries and languages. These tend to reflect key events or changes which have occurred over the past year. (Find out the significance of 'Vangreiðslugjald', 'Fiducia' and 'Elch Emil' in 2025!)

Propose your "Word of the Year" for 2026 explaining why you have made your choice.

Group / class activity



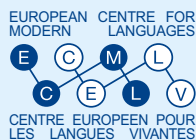
Have look at the 2025 words!

edl.ecml.at/wordoftheyear



European Day of Languages 26 September

WWW.COE.INT/EDL  #COEEDL



We wish to thank the *Institut national des langues Luxembourg* for allowing us to draw inspiration from their excellent brochure about EDL activities.