




# Routes into language learning in higher education




Somewhere there is a language or degree combination that is just right for you...

Keyword search for “languages” on [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) finds 5,252 courses

Degree programmes go from:

African Studies  
to

Zoology with a Modern Language




Somewhere there is a language or degree combination that is just right for you...

You can choose from the languages of:

Africa • China and Inner Asia • East Asia •  
Eastern Europe • Near and Middle East •  
Scandinavia • South-East Asia • South Asia •  
Western Europe

Many languages can be taken from scratch



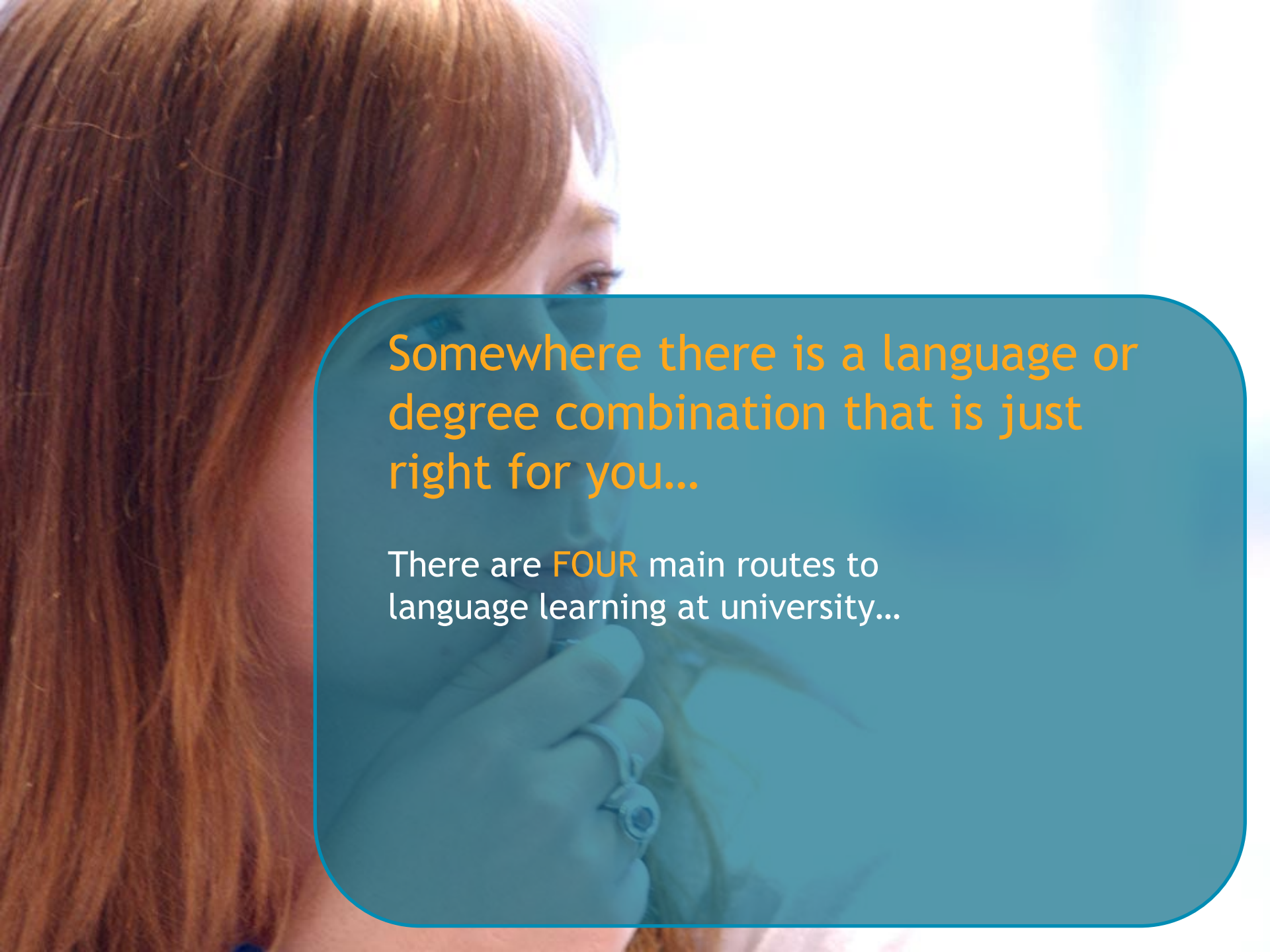
A woman with long, straight brown hair is shown in profile, looking out a window. The background is bright and slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent teal rounded rectangle.

Somewhere there is a language or degree combination that is just right for you...

Languages of the wider world include:

Arabic • Chinese • Czech • Dutch • French • German • Gujerati • Hebrew • Hindi • Indonesian • Irish • Italian • Japanese • Polish • Portuguese • Russian • Sanskrit • Slovak • Spanish • Swahili • Swedish • Tamil • Thai • Turkish

and many more...

A woman with long, straight brown hair is shown in profile, looking out of a window. Her hand is resting on her chin, and she has a thoughtful expression. The background is bright and slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light. A semi-transparent teal rounded rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

Somewhere there is a language or degree combination that is just right for you...

There are **FOUR** main routes to language learning at university...



## Route 1: take a language degree

i) Single honours with **one** language

- German
- Italian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Welsh
- Arabic

## Route 1: take a language degree

ii) Joint or combined honours  
with **two or more** languages

- European and Middle Eastern Languages
- French and Russian
- Modern and Mediaeval Languages
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- Scandinavian Studies
- Arabic and Japanese

“and” means you study both languages equally

## Route 1: take a language degree

iii) A Major / Minor combination:

- French with Japanese
- Spanish with Italian
- Chinese Studies with German
- French with Arabic
- German Studies with Italian
- Portuguese with Russian

“with” often means a two thirds / one third split



## Route 1: what will you study?

“As an undergraduate student, you will have **considerable choice** in the composition of your degree, although language learning will be a core component throughout your course.

Further options in your first year will include one or two courses specific to the languages in which you are specialising, focussing on cultural expression, social and political structures, or linguistic issues, as well as some of the introductory courses in **Linguistic Studies, Literary and Cultural Studies, Film and Television Studies and Historical, Social and Political Studies...**”



## Route 1: what will you study?

Look at language degree programmes  
and you will find a wide choice of  
content and focus



## Route 2: Degrees with a language component

### i) Area Studies:

- African Studies
- European Union Studies
- Persian Studies, year spent in Iran
- American Studies, students take French or Spanish in first year
- Celtic Studies, students have the opportunity to study Irish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Breton
- Arabic with Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies



## Route 2: Degrees with a language component

ii) Look beyond the title!

- Leisure and Tourism Resource Management  
(a language studied in year 1)
- Development Studies  
(with practical experience in the developing world)
- Law with a European Legal System  
(French, German, Italian, Hispanic)
- Sports Studies with Business  
(Languages in years 2 and 3)
- Masters in Electrical Engineering with European Studies  
(students spend a year abroad)



## Route 3: combine a language

Languages combined with another subject:

- **Business** and French
- Italian and **International Relations**
- Portuguese & Brazilian Studies with **Film**
- **Management** with Chinese Studies
- French/**Cell and Molecular Biology**
- **Criminology/Criminal Justice** / German
- **Computing** and Spanish
- German Studies and **Psychology**
- Language with **Counselling**





## Route 4: there is always a way

Language available at some point in the degree

- French for **Engineers**
- Italian for **Art Historians**
- Spanish for **Scientists**
- Russian for **Historians**
- Institution Wide Language Programmes (IWLP)

Some courses carry full credit rating, some carry no credit. Some attract a small fee.

• In 2004/05 there were **52,661** students studying in this way.





## Other routes:

- Language clubs
- Self-access in a Language Centre
- Language exchanges with native speakers
- Cert/ Dip HE or Certificate Courses
- Evening or community programmes



## Opportunities for travel: the ultimate gap year

Many degree courses offer the possibility of supported residence abroad at some point

Placements can be found around the world

Opportunities include:

- study at a partner university
- teaching English on the assistantship scheme
- work placements





## Opportunities for travel: the ultimate gap year

“Life is fab”: Helen’s message from abroad  
Helen is studying Spanish and has just started  
teaching in Mexico for a year...

“Sorry I haven't gotten back to you sooner, this  
week's been a bit hectic what with flat-  
hunting and actually having to plan some  
lessons thanks to the fact that I now have  
students in my classes!...



## Opportunities for travel: the ultimate gap year

Life in general here is fab and I'm settling in fine, in fact I feel like I'm getting used to risking my life on a daily basis on the buses, tripping over my feet on the uneven pavements, and getting woken up at silly o'clock by the gas man when he comes round playing his little tune and shouting "el gaaaaaas!".





## Opportunities for travel: the ultimate gap year

I've tried quite a few Mexican delicacies (including crickets the other day) and amazingly haven't been ill yet. Haven't got much of a tan at the moment as I've not had the chance to go to the beach yet, but we're hoping to rectify that this weekend.

Anyway I've probably gone on for long enough now, but I hope you're well and everything at Uni is peachy! Would love to hear what you're up to as well.”



## Make your choice:

Follow:

Route 1 - a language degree

Route 2 - a degree with a language component

Route 3 - a language with another subject

Route 4 - a language at some point in your degree





## Make your choice:

There IS a wide range of language learning opportunities available in higher education

Research all language learning options when you are choosing your degree

Have the confidence (and get the information) to take the opportunities on offer

You won't regret it

Still need convincing?

## Highly employable:

Which of these graduates are most likely to be unemployed?

Subject of degree	% unemployed
Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary	0.6%
Education	3.1%
Law	3.7%
German	4.8%
Architecture/Building/Planning	4.9%
French	5.0%
All Modern Foreign Languages	5.7%
Mathematics	6.3%
English	6.5%
Psychology	6.5%
Business Studies	6.6%
Average (6 months after graduating)	7.1%
Engineering and Technology	8.0%
Computer Science	10.7%
Creative Arts and Design	12.3%

Creative Arts and Design

Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary

Business Studies

Psychology

English

Mathematics

Education

Law

Engineering and Technology

Architecture and Planning

Computer Science

German

French

All Modern Foreign Languages

## Highly employable:

What jobs do graduates with languages do?

They include:

Civil service • International organisations • fashion •  
financial services • library and information management •  
heritage and culture • travel and tourism •  
hotels and catering • advertising and market research •  
retail management • sales and marketing •  
international recruitment • broadcasting • journalism •  
publishing • technical services • science and IT •  
shipping services • freight forwarding •  
voluntary organisations and charities • postgraduate training

...and you thought the only options were translating and teaching



## Highly employable:

Whatever your degree, a language skill will count...

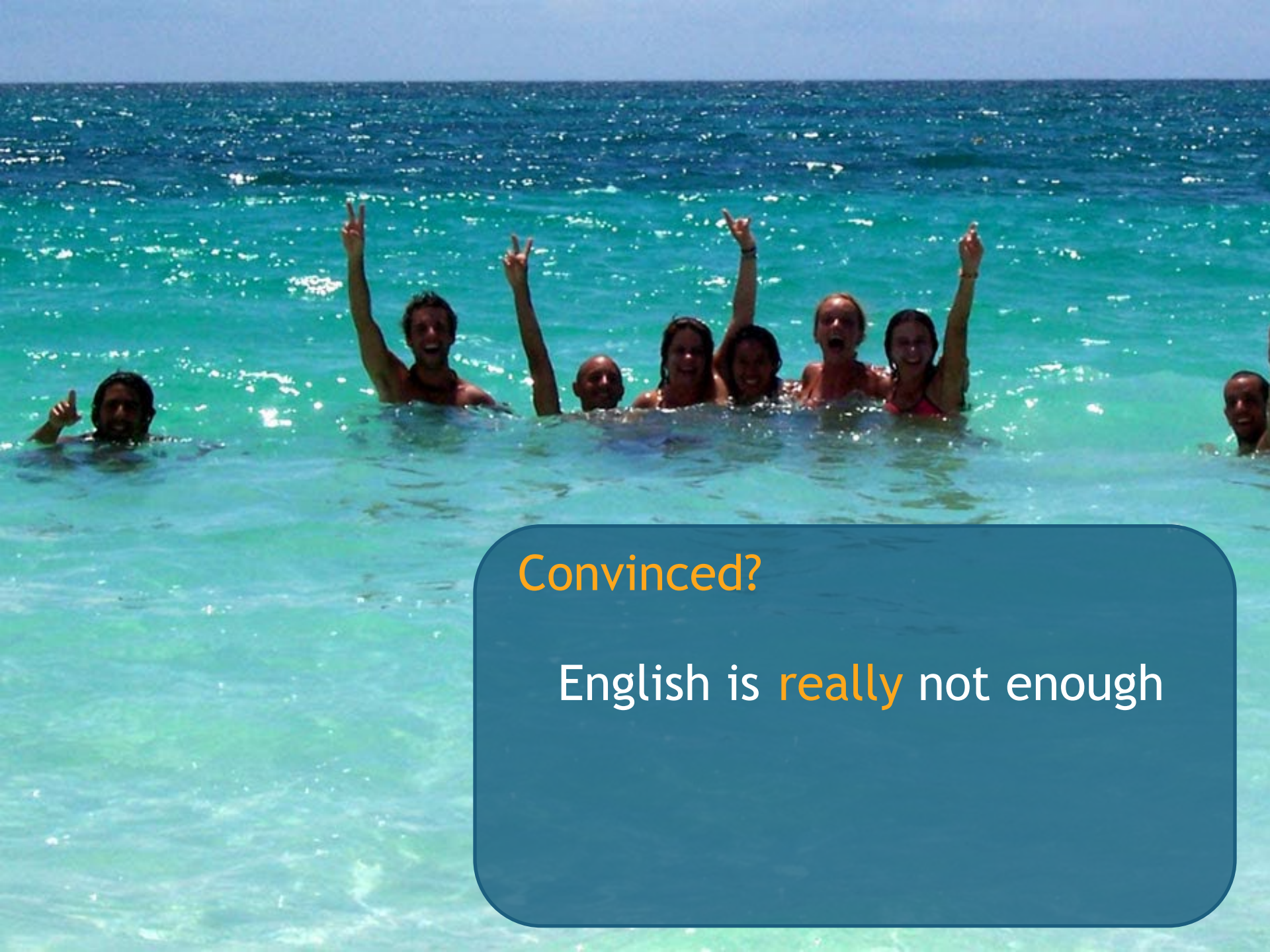
### Here's one example:

“More and more, those entering the civil engineering field must have skills in **communication**, computers, management and **foreign languages**, as well as advanced knowledge in a speciality within civil engineering.

Students increasingly need to have knowledge of **foreign languages or cultures**, because many civil engineering mega projects are now overseas:

- Petronas Towers in **Malaysia**
- the Channel Tunnel in **Europe**
- and the new Akashi Kaikyo Bridge in **Japan**, which is the longest suspension bridge in the world.”

American Society of Civil Engineers



Convinced?

English is **really** not enough