

## CNN News Highlights — TikTok Polyglot

|              |                     |             |                        |             |                             |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Cambodian | 2) conversationally | 3) fluently | 4) linguistic reflexes | 5) polyglot | 6) spontaneous interactions |
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Pop quiz, hot shot — which language has the longest alphabet in the world: Latin, Greek, \_\_\_\_\_, or Hawaiian? If you said Cambodian, you are correct. Khmer, the official language of Cambodia, has an alphabet that is 74 letters long. Meanwhile, the Hawaiian alphabet is one of the shortest at 13.

We're about to meet TikTok star Yuji Beleza, who travels the world putting his language skills to the test by connecting with the people he meets. He's a \_\_\_\_\_ — someone who speaks several languages. He speaks five of them \_\_\_\_\_, ten languages \_\_\_\_\_, and he can greet folks in dozens more — about 40 languages in total. Check out how he uses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to break the ice around the world.

|                              |        |           |                       |            |            |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| 1) aka a language enthusiast | 2) bro | 3) Kazakh | 4) multiple languages | 5) Turkish | 6) wannabe |
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"Where you guys from? Do you speak—where're you from? I think I can speak your language, \_\_\_\_\_." I interview people from all over the world, speaking their language and putting, uh, smiles on their faces." This is Yuji Beleza, and he calls himself a \_\_\_\_\_ polyglot — \_\_\_\_\_, someone who speaks and understands \_\_\_\_\_ fluently. He says he can speak in around 30 languages conversationally, and he's only 27 years old. "I speak fluently in, uh, English, Japanese, Russian, German, and also \_\_\_\_\_. Excuse me, if I speak your language, I'll give you \_\_\_\_\_ chocolate." "Do you know him?" "Yes, he's on TikTok." I have, uh, right now nearly 4 million followers on TikTok and nearly 3 million followers on Instagram. "Say your language." "Sure."

|              |              |               |             |                        |           |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1) bilingual | 2) immigrant | 3) Lithuanian | 4) master's | 5) sparked my interest | 6) Vienna |
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Yuji grew up in a \_\_\_\_\_ community in Japan with his Irish mother and Japanese father, but says he never felt completely accepted as a Japanese person. In high school, he went to Ireland for a year and says he felt like an \_\_\_\_\_ there, too.

"I had made more friends with the—actually the Polish and \_\_\_\_\_ community. That's one of the reasons I became friends with them and, um, basically they were speaking Russian. That was the moment that kind of, like, \_\_\_\_\_ in languages."

In college in Japan, he started studying Russian. Next, he got a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, where he felt more comfortable with Turkish immigrants.

|                |               |              |                  |                         |         |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1) communicate | 2) encouraged | 3) knowledge | 4) native tongue | 5) the older generation | 6) wise |
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"Then I also realized that I need to learn Turkish to become more friends with them. I want to really learn this language to understand the people and \_\_\_\_\_ with the people, so that made it easier." It was one of those Turkish friends who \_\_\_\_\_ him to start making videos. Now he speaks dozens of languages and interviews people from all over the world, speaking their \_\_\_\_\_.

"I really enjoy talking to all \_\_\_\_\_ because they have really \_\_\_\_\_ —they're really wise and they have, you know, \_\_\_\_\_, like super, super interesting stories to tell."

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| 1) doorway | 2) Finnish | 3) forget the nerves | 4) grammatically | 5) Hungarian | 6) secret |
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Yuji says he thinks that anyone who wants to learn a language should try to step out of the classroom, \_\_\_\_\_, and just use it. Another \_\_\_\_\_ to languages? One is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the next.

"\_\_\_\_\_ language is similar to \_\_\_\_\_, and also Hungarian is very similar to the Turkic — which is Turkish — language, and also Turkish language is very similar to Japanese language. So every language is kind of connected in a way."

## Translation

快問快答！你知道世界上哪一種語言的字母表最長嗎？是拉丁文、希臘文、柬埔寨文還是夏威夷文？如果你選的是柬埔寨文，你答對了！高棉語是柬埔寨的官方語言，它的字母表有 74 個字母。而夏威夷語的字母表則是最短的之一，只有 13 個字母。

我們現在要認識一位 TikTok 明星——Yuji Belez。他到世界各地旅行，透過語言能力和當地人交流。他是一位「語言天才」（polyglot），也就是會說多種語言的人。他能流利地說 5 種語言、用 10 種語言進行日常對話，還能用大約 40 種語言打招呼。看看他如何利用即興互動和語言反應力，在世界各地打開話題、拉近距離吧！

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「你們從哪裡來？你會說——你是從哪裡來的？我覺得我會說你的語言，兄弟。」我訪問世界各地的人，用他們的語言和他們聊天，讓他們展露笑容。

這位就是 Yuji Belez，他自稱是「想當語言天才的人」——也就是對語言有熱情、能流利說多種語言的人。他說他大約能用 30 種語言進行對話，而且他才 27 歲。

「我可以流利說英文、日文、俄文、德文，還有土耳其文。不好意思，如果我會說你的語言，我就送你哈薩克巧克力。」

「你認識他嗎？」

「知道啊，他在 TikTok 上超紅。」

「我現在在 TikTok 上有將近四百萬粉絲，Instagram 也快三百萬了。」

「說說你的語言吧。」

「好啊。」

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Yuji 在日本一個雙語家庭長大，媽媽是愛爾蘭人，爸爸是日本人。但他說自己一直沒覺得被日本社會真正接納。高中時他去愛爾蘭一年，也覺得自己像個外來移民。

「我那時候反而跟波蘭和立陶宛社群的人比較要好。他們大多講俄語，我就是因為這樣才跟他們變朋友。那時候就突然對語言產生了興趣。」

大學時他開始學俄文，後來又到維也納念碩士，在那裡他和土耳其移民比較投緣。

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「後來我發現，如果我想和他們變成真正的朋友，就必須學土耳其語。我真的很想學這個語言，了解他們，和他們溝通，這樣就比較容易了。」

是其中一位土耳其朋友鼓勵他開始拍影片的。現在他能說很多語言，也會用對方的母語訪問世界各地的人。

「我特別喜歡跟長輩聊天，因為他們真的很有智慧，也有很多、很多超有趣的故事可以分享。」

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Yuji 說，想學語言的人應該要走出教室、放下緊張、勇敢開口使用。學語言的另一個小秘訣是——學一種語言，其實就等於打開了通往另一種語言的大門。

「匈牙利語在文法上跟芬蘭語很像，而匈牙利語又跟突厥語（也就是土耳其語）很接近，土耳其語又和日語有不少相似之處。所以其實很多語言都是互相有關聯的。」



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<https://linguadox.com/cnn-news-highlights-tiktok-polyglot/>

## Answers

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