

Fox Valley Newcomer Project: Newcomer Survey 2026 - Language and Literacy

Newcomer respondent summary perspective of language and literacy around the Fox Valley:

"English proficiency is necessary, and we are learning it, but we need more flexible programs and support to improve our language skills at a faster rate."

In regards to language and literacy, we asked Newcomers about their language preferences, comfort levels with the 4 modalities of language use, enrollment in language learning classes, about interpreting and translation services, and what, if anything could be changed about the language access in the valley. We asked participating organizations about the language services and literacy programs they offer that support Newcomers.

In 2026, a total of 161 Newcomers and 51 organizations across the Fox Valley of Wisconsin responded to the survey.

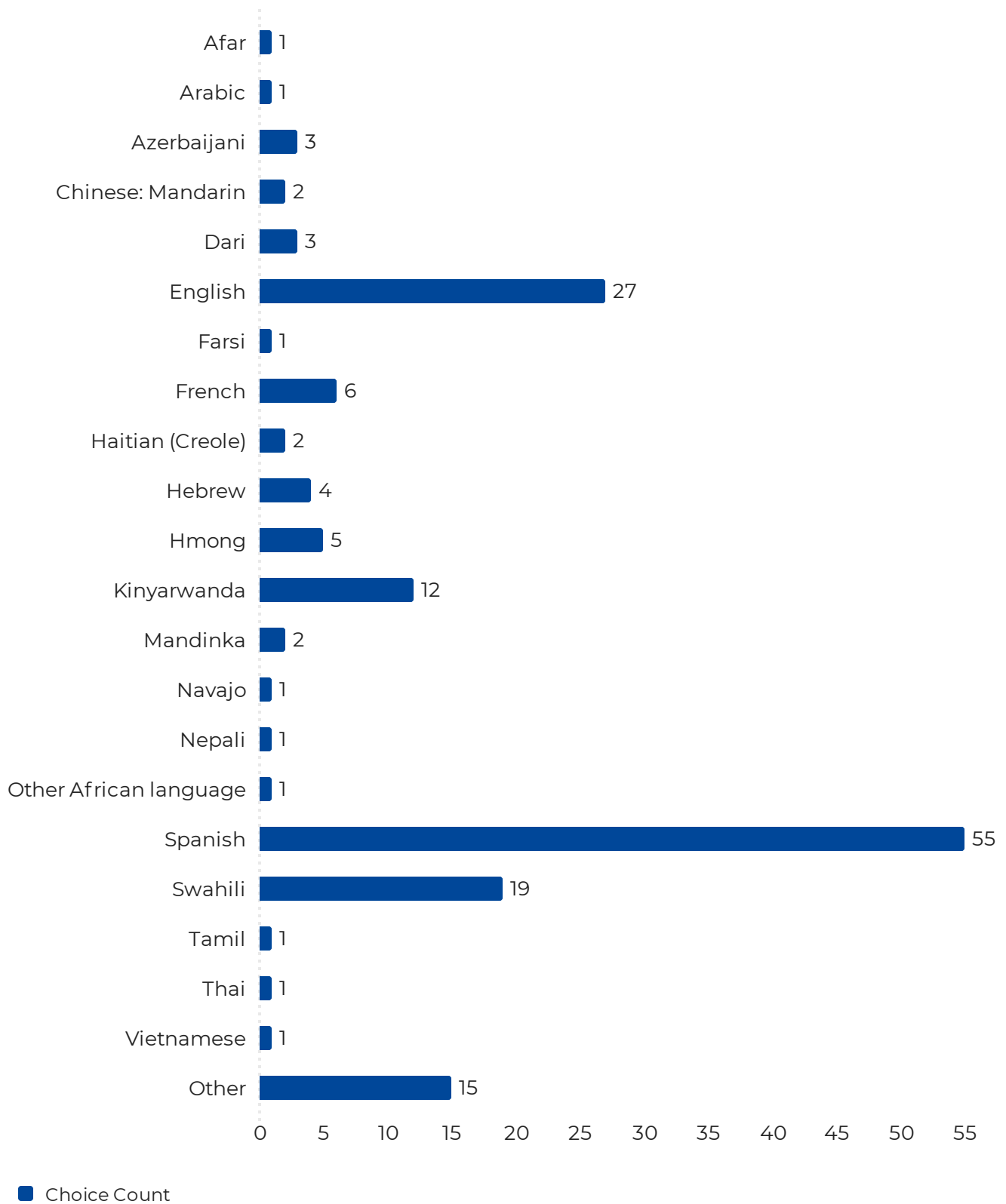
Organizations who offer interpreting and/or translation services:

Appleton Area School District
 Appleton Public Library
 Bethel Lutheran Church
 Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley
 Casa Esther
 Familia Cristiana
 Forward Service Corporation
 Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
 Fox Valley Literacy
 Harbor House Domestic & Sexual Violence Programs
 Hope & Help Together
 Mosaic Family Health
 Multicultural Coalition, Inc.
 St Mary Catholic Schools
 ThedaCare
 Valley Transit
 VPI, Inc.

Organizations who offer language learning and literacy programming:

Amcor
 Bethel Lutheran Church
 Fox Valley Literacy
 Winnebago Area Literacy Council

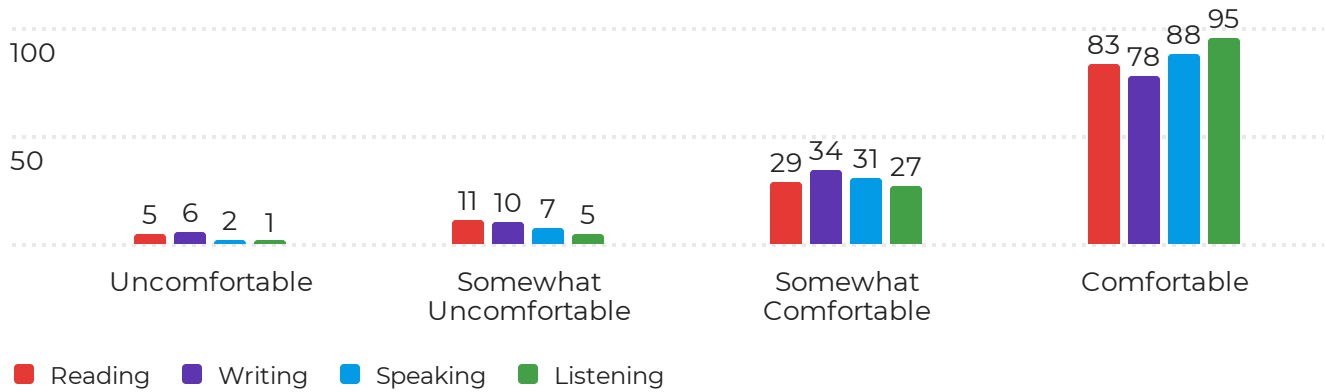
Primary language of Newcomer respondents



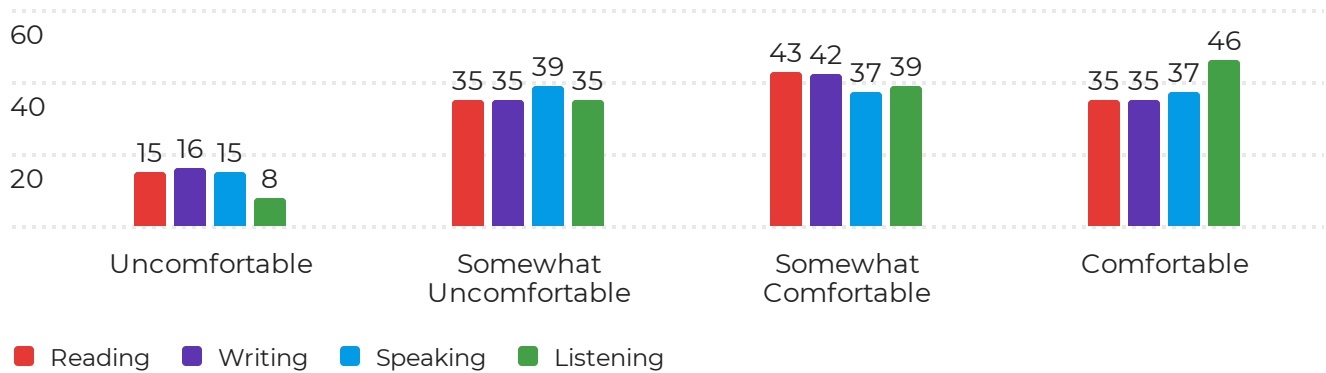
Levels of comfort with primary language vs English

Newcomers who responded were asked about their comfort with 4 different modalities of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) in both their primary language and in English. The following charts compare the comfort levels between primary languages and English.

primary lng skills - What is your comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening i...



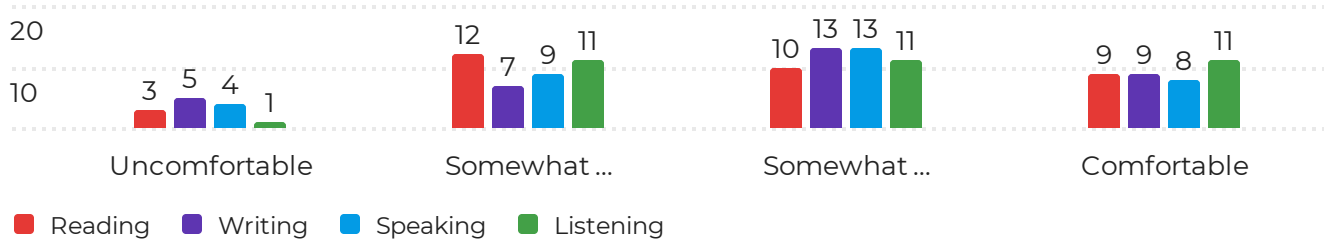
english lng skills - What is your comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening i...



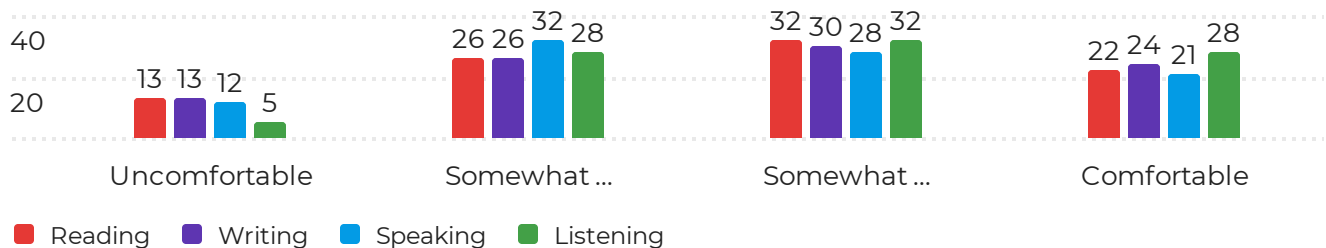
Level of comfort with English based on time length of time

The following charts show Newcomers respondent comfort with English, broken down by how long they have lived in the Fox Valley and the United States. This kind of "length of time" data can help us see changes in linguistic ability and confidence over time.

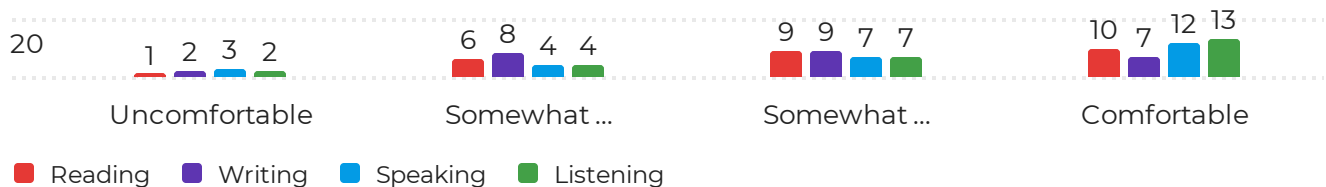
english lng skills - What is your comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening i...



english lng skills - What is your comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening i...



Comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English 6-10 years after arrival



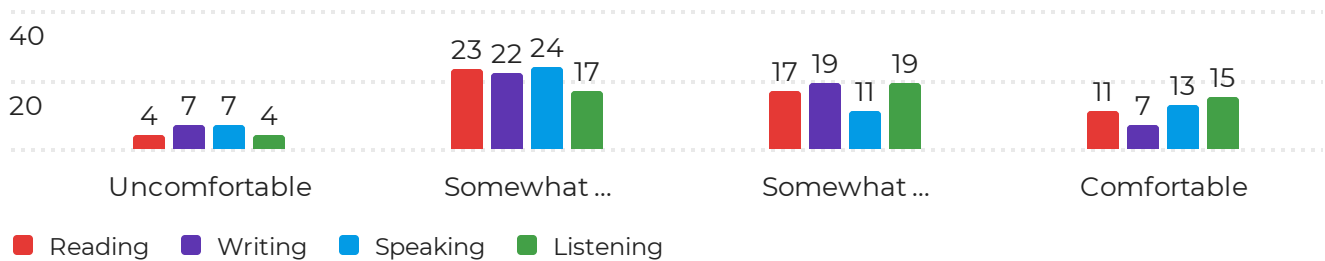
Comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English more than 10 years after arrival



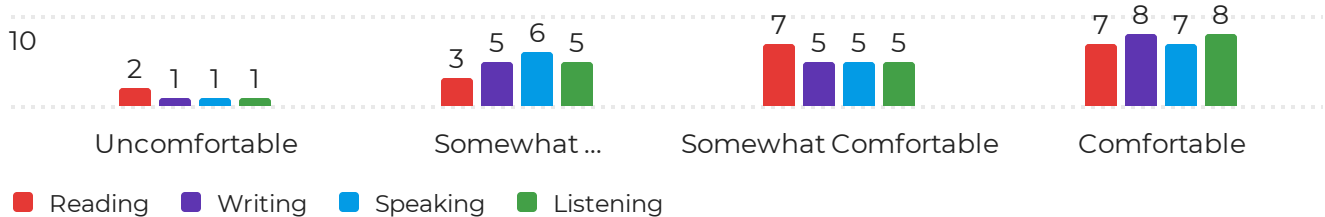
Levels of comfort with English by primary language

The following charts show Newcomers respondent comfort with English by respondents whose primary languages other than English are Spanish (45 respondents), Swahili (25 respondents), and Kinyarwanda (19 respondents). Primary language indication does not infer that language users share the same cultural norms, histories, or socio economic status.

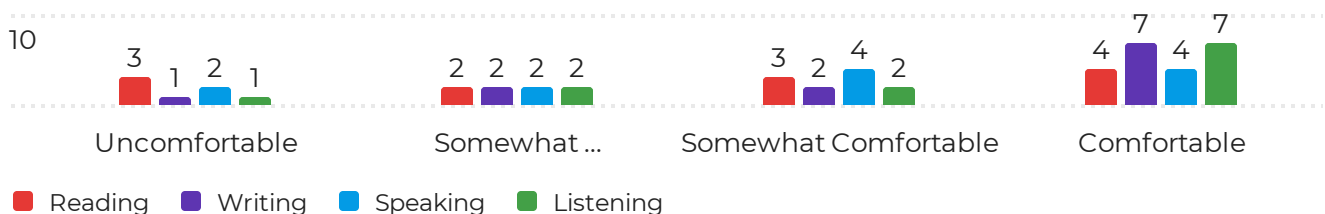
english lng skills - What is your comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening i...



Comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English for Swahili speakers



Comfort level with reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English for Kinyarwanda speakers



Enrollment in language learning classes

We asked all Newcomer respondents if they are currently enrolled in English language learning classes. 70% of respondents said "Yes." For those who responded "No", we followed up and asked if they knew where to go to learn English.

Are you currently taking classes to learn English?

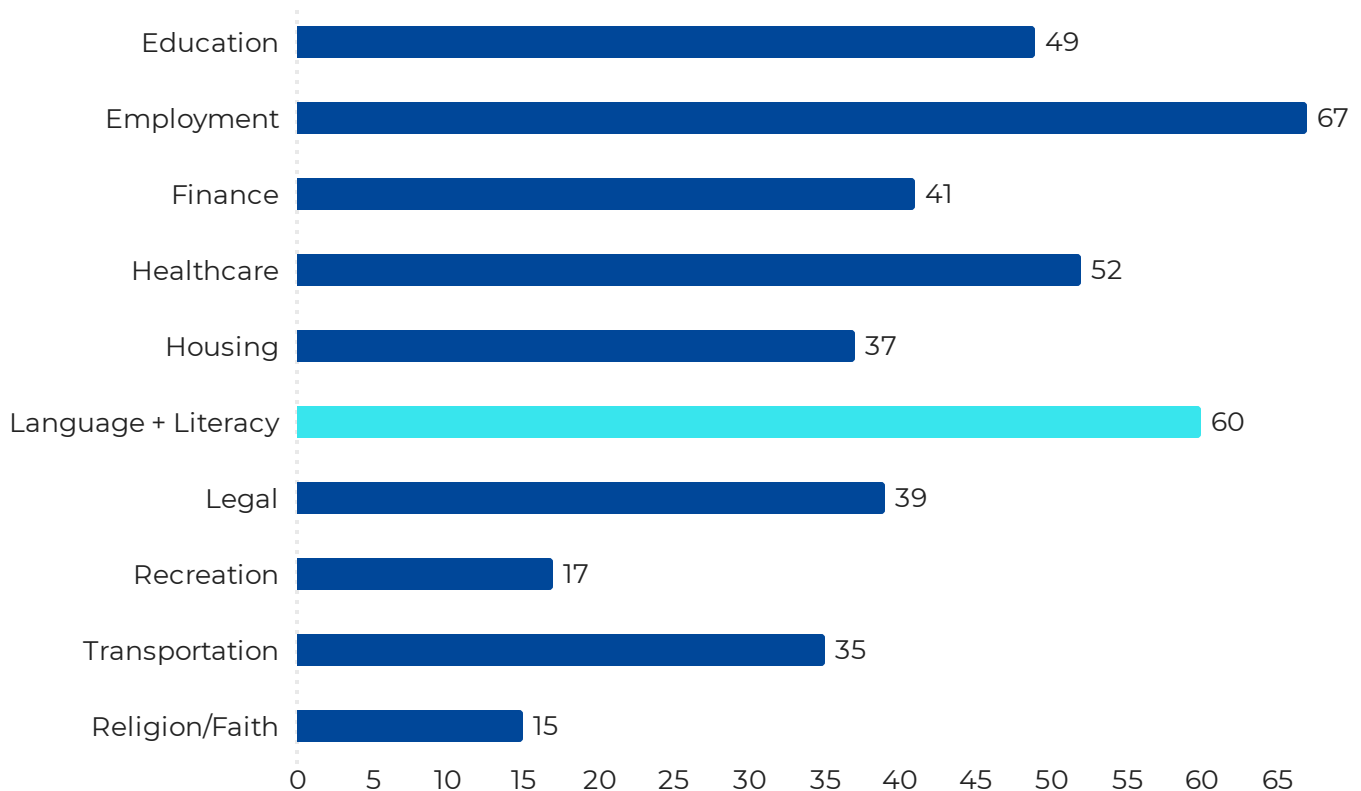


Do you know where to go to learn English for adults?



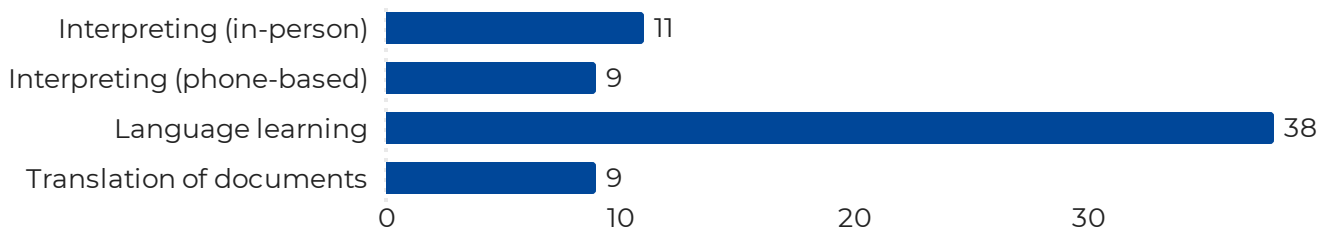
Language and Literacy as an indicator of a thriving life:

In the Fox Cities, we want all families to have good lives. Which of these areas of life have been challenging for you or your family to support you in living well?



Supports Request - Language and Literacy

Newcomers selected a variety of supports they would like easier access to across all sectors. The following supports and services are being requested regularly by Newcomer respondents



■ Choice Count