



My spouse says we'd be happier if we could speak some basic French. But I figured they're taking my money, so they should know English. What do you think? *PLJ, Newark NJ*

A: Your *travel4seniors.com* editor studied French and Italian in high school many, many years ago. So, wandering in my post-retirement years in Europe is much more convenient after I brushed up on the languages. With so many free online sources of quick studies, it's worthwhile to at least learn some basics before you go.

Consider getting teaching apps, such as *babbel.com*, *memrise.com* and *rosettastone.com*. Also, for those hours during that long flight or cruise to Europe, before you go, record some sessions on your smartphone and practice as you travel.