



# Saying What You Like and Don't Like in Foreign Languages

KS2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

## Why Tell People What You Like?

When you're learning a new language, one of the most useful things you can say is what you enjoy and what you don't. Whether you're in a restaurant, at school, or making friends in another country, being able to share your opinions helps people understand you better. It's also a great way to have real conversations instead of just reading from a textbook.

## The Basic Building Blocks

Most languages have a simple pattern for talking about likes and dislikes. In **English**, we say "I like" or "I don't like." In **French**, it's "J'aime" (I like) and "Je n'aime pas" (I don't like). In **Spanish**, you say "Me gusta" (literally "it pleases me") and "No me gusta" (it doesn't please me). In **German**, it's "Ich mag" (I like) and "Ich mag nicht" (I don't like).

Think of it like learning a dance move. Once you know the basic steps, you can do them with different music. The "I like" pattern is your basic step, and the things you like are the different songs you dance to.

## Making Your Opinions Stronger

Once you know the basic phrases, you can make them more interesting. Want to say you **really** love something? Try "I love" or the stronger version in your language. In **French**, "J'adore" means "I adore," which is much more enthusiastic than just "J'aime." If you don't like something at all, you can say "I hate" instead of "I don't like." These stronger words help show exactly how you feel.

## Putting It All Together

The magic happens when you combine your opinion with actual things. "I like pizza" or "I don't like spiders" are complete thoughts. In most languages, the structure stays the same: opinion phrase, then the thing. Practice saying things you genuinely like

and dislike—your favorite food, hobbies, animals, or subjects at school. This makes learning feel real and helps the words stick in your memory.

## **Practice Makes Perfect**

The best way to learn is to use these phrases in real situations. Talk to friends, watch videos in the language, or imagine conversations in your head. Start simple with foods and animals, then move to hobbies, school subjects, and people. Before long, expressing your likes and dislikes will feel natural, and you'll be having real conversations in your new language.