Linguistics aims not merely to describe particular languages, but to characterize and account for the nature of language, and for the human ability to learn and use it. Linguists address the phenomenon of language from a variety of perspectives. Some are concerned with the cognitive aspects of language learning, production and comprehension; some are concerned with language as a social and cultural phenomenon. Others engage in the analysis of linguistic structure, some from a functional and others from a formal perspective. Some linguists are concerned with computational implementations of linguistic theory for both practical and theoretical purposes. In all cases, a central question for linguists is to understand not only the wonderful variety of the world’s languages but also what these languages have in common: what it is that makes a human language human. The study of language thus contributes vitally to our understanding of human society, human culture, and human minds.

Typical career paths can be developed in several areas such as government, arts/media and entertainment, interpretation/translation, service and education, and graduate school.

**Selected Career Directions and Resources**

**Arts, Media, and Entertainment**
Get In Media: getinmedia.com
Showbizjobs.com: www.showbizjobs.com
Media Careers from Variety.com: www.varietymediacareers.com

**Think Tanks, Politics, and Public Administration**
Brookings Institute: www.brookings.edu
The Heritage Foundation: www.heritage.org
International Monetary Fund (IMF): www.imf.org
RAND: www.rand.org
Policy Jobs: www.policyjobs.net
Foreign Policy Association Job Board: www.fpa.org/jobs
NIRA World Directory of Think Tanks: www.nira.or.jp/past/ice/nwdtt/2005/index.html
World Bank: www.worldbank.org

**Government**
USAJOBS (Office of Personnel Mgmt): www.opm.gov
US State Department: www.state.gov
Federal Bureau of Investigation: www.fbi.gov
Central Intelligence Agency: www.cia.gov
National Security Agency: www.nsa.gov
Peace Corps: www.peacecorps.gov
Defense Intelligence Agency: www.dia.mil
Government (continued)
The Electronic Embassy: www.embassy.org
Inter-American Foundation: www.iaf.gov/index/index_en.asp

Interpretation/Translation
Language Line Solutions: www.languageline.com/company/careers
Interpretation Job on CareerBuilder.com: www.careerbuilder.com/Jobs/Keyword/Interpreter

Educator, Researcher, Communicator or Editor, Information Manager, Interpretation/Translation
Education Sector: www.educationsector.org
Beyond Academe: www.beyondacademe.com

Selected Companies/Job Titles (Actual)
Comrise Technologies, Leadership in Training
World Insurance Company, Marketing Intern
Council on International Education Exchange, English Teacher

Selected Skills
Oral Comprehension and Expression
Analyzing Data or Information
Speech Recognition and Clarity
Interpreting Meaning for Others
Written Comprehension and Expression

Salary and Employment Trends
Since wages change rapidly year after year, the following links will be helpful in identifying median wages and employment trends:

ONET Online: www.onetonline.org
Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/ooh