



Language lessons via your cell phone

By [Keith Shaw](#) on Fri, 06/02/2006 - 3:13pm

It's obvious that people who design things for cell phones are huge science-fiction ~~nerds~~ fans. How else to explain new foreign language applications from the Verizon Wireless Get It Now service, which gets us closer to the [Babel fish](#) or the [Star Trek Universal Translator](#). The downloadable applications offer translations for Spanish, French, Japanese or German (just in time for all you World Cup fans heading to the games!). Applications include:

* The **SkyZone Entertainment Merriam-Webster Spanish-English Dictionary** lets you search more than 100,000 translations and 80,000 entry words and phrases in both languages. The application costs \$3.49 per month, Verizon Wireless says.

* The **VOCEL Living Language Program**, which offers 600 words, phrases and short readings, as well as audio pronunciation in Japanese, German or 20 other foreign languages. Users can choose how many questions they receive each day, what topics to cover and when a class starts and ends. The application even sends reminders and flash cards to the phone's screen. The application costs \$3.99 per month or \$9.49 for unlimited usage.

* **AppAbove's Spanish Anywhere**, which includes more than 1,200 common phrases that can be translated to Spanish or back to English. The application also has access to more than 5,500 words and includes a verb conjugator with more than 1,000 Spanish and English verbs. The application costs \$2.99 per month or \$9.99 for unlimited use.