

Eight months after its launch, **TalkTalkBnb**, a collaborative platform that allows travelers to stay for free with hosts around the world in exchange for language practice, has already attracted more than 20,000 members from 120 countries.

“It is a necessity to have foreign language skills” says founder Hubert Laurent, “and to speak a language well, you must practice. But it takes time and money to travel to foreign countries for language immersion, or to take intensive language courses. With TalkTalkBnb, the cost of language learning is zero. Host a traveler who speaks the language you would like to practice. The traveler receives free accommodation, contact with a local and advice on sightseeing. In return, you have the unique opportunity to practice a language with a native speaker in your own home for free.”



For travelers, this is a new way to interact with locals: speak with your hosts and their children in your native language to help them improve. TalkTalkBnb corresponds perfectly to the modern traveler's desire for authenticity and true exchange.

ICONSPEAK founders Georg and Florian tackled the issue of language and travel differently, by creating a t-shirt with 40 universally recognizable symbols.



What is the best way to communicate with people if you don't speak the same language? Gesture? Pictures? Then why not have a t-shirt with travel icons printed right on it? Clever!

"The idea came to us in Vietnam," says Georg, "These icons refer to things everybody is familiar with. It's a universal language. All you have to do is point to a symbol and you will be immediately understood."

Looking for a restaurant? Point to the plate. The airport? A pharmacy? A Coffeehouse? Wifi? Just point to the appropriate icon on your shirt and let it speak for you!

With this t-shirt, "a picture really is worth a thousand words", as they say.

The two start-ups have decided to collaborate and develop six t-shirts together: three colors for women and three for men, with the **TalkTalkBnb** logo.

Want to go? Find your free accommodation at <http://talktalkbnb.com>. Visit <https://iconspeak.world/> and order your t-shirt... or should we say, your passport to the world!