

1

Languages of the world

My language, your language

- 1 Write the languages for the countries. Look them up on the Internet if you need to.

| Country | Main languages |
|---------------|---|
| 1 New Zealand | <i>English, Maori (New Zealand sign language)</i> |
| 2 Japan | |
| 3 Spain | |
| 4 Germany | |
| 5 France | |
| 6 Italy | |
| 7 Portugal | |
| 8 Brazil | |
| 9 Argentina | |
| 10 Russia | |

- 2 How good are you at languages? Try this quick quiz. (Clue: the answers to questions 2 to 5 are all in Exercise 1, but you can use the Internet to help you.)

- The words in the speech bubbles all mean the same thing. What is it? _____
- In Italian, this word can also mean 'Bye'. Which number is it on the globe? _____
- This language uses the Cyrillic alphabet. It's number 5 on the globe. What language is it? _____
- The more formal way of saying number 3 is 'Bonjour'. What language is it? _____
- Look at numbers 1 and 2. Which is Spanish and which is Portuguese? _____

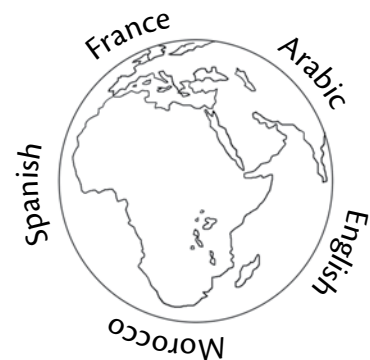


1: Languages of the world

3 Complete the texts with the correct countries and languages.

I'm from Montreal. It's in Quebec which is a province in the east of ¹ _____. It belonged to France at one point in its history. So ² _____ is my first language, but I also speak ³ _____.

I live in Rabat, the capital of ⁴ _____, in North Africa. ⁵ _____ and Berber are our official languages. My parents also speak French because they work for a company which has offices in ⁶ _____. I speak a little bit of ⁷ _____ because my cousins live in Spain and I've been to visit them several times. I learn ⁸ _____ at school, but I've never been to a country where it's spoken as a native language.



4 Circle the mistakes. Then write out the sentences correctly.

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Both my parents speaks English. _____</p> <p>2 All my friends likes watching films in English. _____</p> <p>3 I've got two cousins who live in Canada, but neither them speaks French. _____</p> | <p>4 Every my friends want to study at university. _____</p> <p>5 I gave each my four cousins a present. _____</p> <p>6 I've got two sisters and all of them are good at languages. _____</p> |
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5 Rewrite these sentences to make them true for you.

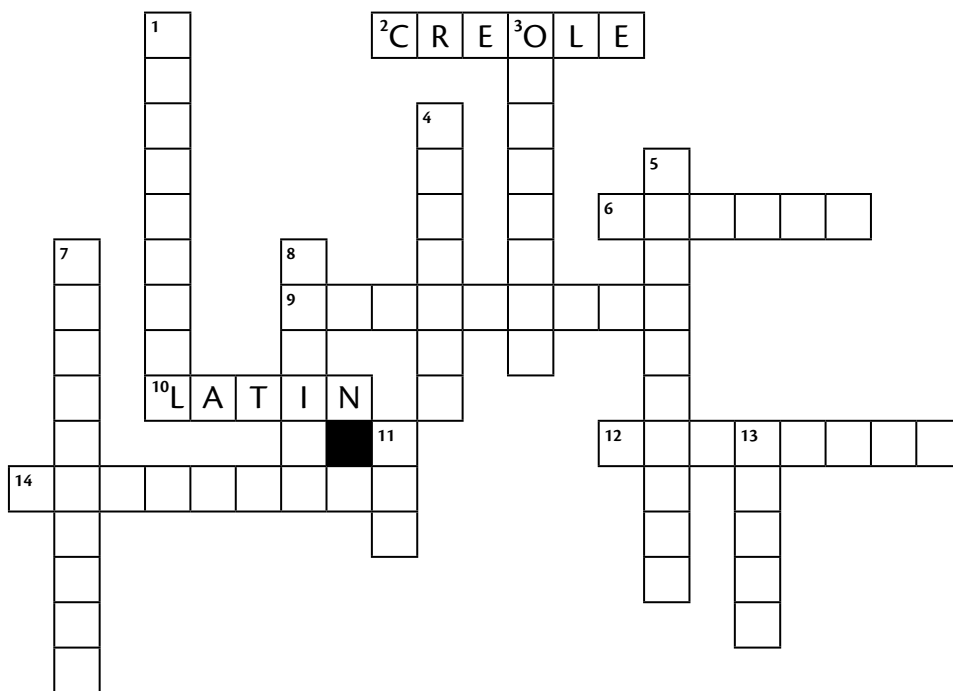
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|---|--|
| <p>1 Everyone in my family speaks German. _____</p> <p>2 I can say 'hello' in three languages. _____</p> <p>3 I can count to ten in Spanish and French. _____</p> | <p>4 Most of us learn English at school. Our grandparents learned French as a foreign language when they were at school. _____</p> <p>5 I'd really like to be able to speak Italian because it sounds so nice. _____</p> |
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Teach yourself Tok Pisin!

1 These are the numbers 1 to 10 in Tok Pisin. Write the English translation next to each number.

et eight faiv _____ foa _____ nain _____ seven _____
 sikis _____ ten _____ tri _____ tu _____ wan _____

2 Complete the crossword.



Across

- 2** A pidgin language that has become the mother tongue of a community. (6)
- 6** The language spoken in Poland. (6)
- 9** An English-speaking country close to 11 Down. (9)
- 10** The language of ancient Rome. (5)
- 12** Russian uses the Cyrillic _____. (8)
- 14** A language spoken in Southern China and Hong Kong. (9)

Down

- 1** Speaking two languages. (9)
- 3** English and French are the _____ languages of Canada. (8)
- 4** The most important city in a country. (7)
- 5** All the words that someone knows, learns or uses. (10)
- 7** The number of people living in a country. (10)
- 8** Your first language is your _____ language. (6)
- 11** Papua _____ Guinea. (3)
- 13** A main language spoken in India. (5)

3 Rewrite the sentences using *although*.

- 1 I speak English quite well, but I find English spelling hard.
Although I speak English quite well, I find English spelling hard.

- 2 The islands of Trinidad and Tobago are very close to Venezuela, but English is spoken there, not Spanish.

- 3 Welsh settlers first went to Patagonia in 1865, but Welsh is still quite widely spoken in this part of Argentina today.

- 4 Chinese is an important world language, but not many schools in Britain teach it.

- 5 Shakespeare probably never left England, but several of his plays are set in other countries.

4 Match the contrasting ideas and then join them in a sentence with *whereas/while*.

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|---|---|
| 1 In Britain, the winter months are December, January and February. | In Australia, students start school in January. |
| 2 I'm good at languages. | In South Africa, winter is from May to July. |
| 3 In Argentina, Spanish is spoken. | Most Dutch people speak English. |
| 4 Very few British people speak Dutch. | My brother's best subjects are Science and Maths. |
| 5 In Japan, the school year starts in April. | Portuguese is the language of Brazil. |

- 1 *In Britain, the winter months are December, January and February, whereas in South Africa winter is from May to July.*

It's good to learn languages

1 Complete the interview answers with suitable words.

Is it useful to know another language?

Yes, it is, definitely. Speaking to ¹ *someone* in their own language, even if ² _____ is only for a short time, ³ _____ that person feel more at ease.

It's ⁴ _____ useful when you visit another country. ⁵ _____ to say 'hello' and 'thank you' ⁶ _____ the language of that country is ⁷ _____.

So knowing just a few words makes a difference?

Yes, it makes all the difference. ⁸ _____ may only know a few words ⁹ _____ people like it when you try ¹⁰ _____ speak their language.

If you enjoy ¹¹ _____ or films from another country, it's ¹² _____ to be able to understand at ¹³ _____ a little bit.

Do you speak any other languages?

Well, I'm learning ¹⁴ _____ at school. I like being able ¹⁵ _____ understand some of the words when ¹⁶ _____ hear a Spanish song.

What do you think are the advantages of learning a language?

Studies show ¹⁷ _____ learning another language is good for ¹⁸ _____.

It improves your brain power and ¹⁹ _____ is some evidence to show that ²⁰ _____ who are bilingual live longer.

Knowing ²¹ _____ language helps you to use your ²² _____ language well. I teach History and ²³ _____ find that students who know another ²⁴ _____ have better reading skills and wider ²⁵ _____. And of course, having another language ²⁶ _____ be very helpful for going to ²⁷ _____ or university.

Are you more likely to be successful if you speak the language of the people you do business with?

Yes, you are. For ²⁸ _____, if you work for a Japanese ²⁹ _____ in Europe or America, you really ³⁰ _____ to speak some Japanese. And they ³¹ _____ that people who use languages in ³² _____ jobs earn about 8% more than ³³ _____ who don't use them.

2 Read the tips for learning a language. Which statements in the second column illustrate the advice in the first column? Match them.

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| <p>1 Don't be afraid of making mistakes.</p> <p>2 Take the opportunity to listen to the language as much as possible.</p> <p>3 Watch films and TV in English.</p> <p>4 Find a way to learn new words and remember them.</p> <p>5 Practise speaking as much as you can.</p> <p>6 Test yourself.</p> | <p>a Don't be afraid of reading out loud in your room at home and practising conversations with a friend.</p> <p>b For example, try to find an English-speaking radio station. You may even find a pop music station – songs are a good way of helping you learn a language.</p> <p>c It's all part of the learning process. Don't expect to get everything right all the time.</p> <p>d Read through what you've learned in class. Cover the page and see how much you can remember.</p> <p>e Try writing them on pieces of paper and stick them around the house.</p> <p>f You won't understand everything, but it's good to be able to see people speaking as well as hearing them.</p> |
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3 In your notebook, write answers to the questions, giving your own opinions. Use the phrases from the box in your answers where possible.

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| • definitely | • even if | • it's really useful | • it makes all the difference | • a little bit |
| • of course | • more likely to be | • for example | • at ease | |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 What are the advantages of knowing other languages?</p> <p>2 Would you like to study in another country in the future?</p> <p>3 Do you ever feel nervous when you're speaking another language?</p> | <p>4 What's the best way to learn a new language?</p> <p>5 Are languages as important as the other subjects you learn at school? Why? Why not?</p> <p>6 If you were teaching an English speaker your language, how would you start?</p> |
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