

1

Languages of the world

- **Topics** Languages you speak; the languages of Papua New Guinea; the advantages of knowing languages
- **Use of English** Determiners: *neither, each/every, all, both*; conjunctions: *although, while, whereas*



My language, your language

- How many languages can you name? Where are they spoken?

Vocabulary

- 1 Read what these students say about the languages they speak. How many languages and how many countries are mentioned?

“ I live in New Zealand, so I speak English. I can count to ten in Japanese, Spanish, German and French, and I can speak a bit of Maori, the native language of New Zealand. Neither of my parents speaks a foreign language. They wish they’d learned languages at school.”

“ I’m from Java, in Indonesia. I’m bilingual. I speak Javanese at home and Indonesian at school, because all our lessons are in Indonesian. I’m learning English and Japanese, but I’m not fluent yet!”

“ English is my second language because my native language is Welsh. Everyone in my family speaks Welsh. I think if people come to live in Wales, they should learn to speak Welsh, so that it doesn’t become extinct. I speak some Italian, too, because my grandparents are Italian. Every time I go to visit them, I learn a bit more.”

“ I live in Hong Kong. My mum speaks Mandarin Chinese and my dad speaks English, so I speak both these languages at home. At school our lessons are in Cantonese. I think each language has its own difficulties but the more languages you learn, the easier it gets.”



Did you know?

- About 7,000 different languages are spoken around the world.
- In Asia, there are 2,200 languages; in Europe, there are only 260.
- The world’s most widely spoken languages are: Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Bengali, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese, German and French.

In which countries are these languages spoken?

How many languages are spoken in your country?



2 Find a word or a phrase in the text in Exercise 1 which means the same as the following:

- 1 a little *a bit of*
- 2 the language of the country you were born in
- 3 speaking two languages
- 4 able to use a foreign language easily
- 5 the language you learn after your first language
- 6 no longer existing

Speaking

3 Work with a partner. Talk about the languages you speak.

- Choose one or two of the statements in Exercise 1 and adapt them so that they are true for you.

4 Complete the sentences with *all, both, neither, every*. Remember to use *of* where necessary.

- 1 *Both (of)* my parents speak English, so I hear it a lot at home.
- 2 I've got two English friends and _____ them are from London. They were born there.
- 3 My two cousins live in India, but _____ them has ever been to Mumbai.
- 4 I practise my Italian _____ summer when I go to see my grandparents in Bologna.
- 5 In English, _____ the words for languages start with a capital letter.

5 Work with a partner or in small groups. Think of your family and friends. Talk about the languages they speak.

My grandparents live in ...
Both of them speak ...
Neither of them speaks ...

Use of English: Determiners: *neither, each/every, all, both*

Use *both (of), neither of* to talk about two people or things.

*My mum speaks Mandarin Chinese and my dad speaks English, so I speak **both (of)** these languages at home.*

***Neither of** my parents speaks a foreign language.*

Each and every have the same meaning, but *every* is more common than *each*.

***Every / Each** time I go to visit them, I learn a bit more.*

Use *all* to talk about three or more people or things. Use *every* to talk about individual people and things. Use *all* with a plural verb and *every* with a singular verb.

***All my lessons are** in Indonesian.*

***Every lesson is** in Indonesian.*

You can use *the, my, etc.* after *all*, but not after *every*:

***All my cousins speak** Italian.*

NOT *~~Every my cousins speak~~ Italian.*

You must use *of* after *both, neither, each* and *all* before a pronoun:

both of us, neither of us, each of them, all of you

Teach yourself Tok Pisin!

- Before you read, look at the map and answer these questions.
- 1 Where exactly is Papua New Guinea? Use the following words in your answer: *north, east, in.*
 - 2 What languages do you think are spoken in Papua New Guinea?

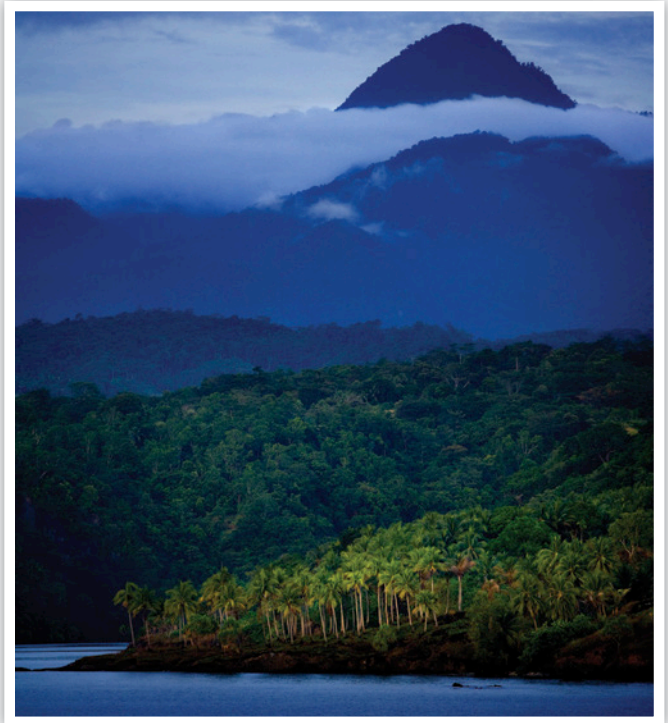
Reading

- 1 Read the text. What is the most surprising fact about Papua New Guinea?



Papua New Guinea is the eastern part of the island of New Guinea. It has a population of just over seven million people. The capital is Port Moresby. The country became independent from Australia in 1975. There are about 800 languages in Papua New Guinea. That's more languages than in any other country in the world.

Papua New Guinea is a land of mountains and rainforests. Most communities are isolated and



have little contact with each other or with the outside world. It's for this reason that so many different languages have developed.

The official languages of Papua New Guinea are Tok Pisin, English and Hiri Motu.

Although English is an official language, it is only spoken as a first language by a small percentage of the population.

Tok Pisin is spoken by most people. It is an English-based creole. The word 'tok' comes from the English word 'talk' and means *word* or *speech*. 'Pisin' means *pidgin*. A pidgin language is one which is a mixture of two other languages, whereas a creole is a pidgin language that has become the mother tongue of a community. Tok Pisin started as a pidgin language and became a creole language.

Although the majority of Tok Pisin vocabulary comes from English, it also includes words from German, Portuguese, Latin and a number of other languages, such as Tolai and Malay.

Tok Pisin is sometimes used in the first three years of primary school in Papua New Guinea, while English is used in secondary education.



2 Read the text again and complete the notes.

Country *Papua New Guinea*
 Capital
 Population
 Official languages
 Total number of languages
 Languages used in education

3 Answer these questions.

- 1 Why do you think there are so many languages in Papua New Guinea?
- 2 What is Tok Pisin?
- 3 What is the difference between a first language and an official language?

4 Join these sentences using the conjunctions in italics.

• *although*

- 1 My dad only spent a month in Australia. However, he learned a lot of English when he was there.
Although my dad only spent a month in Australia, he learned a lot of English when he was there.
- 2 Geography is his favourite subject. However, he didn't know where Papua New Guinea was.
- 3 She speaks really good English. However, she's never been to an English-speaking country.
- 4 I didn't do much revision. However, I got good marks in the test.

• *while / whereas*

- 5 Some people are good at languages. Others find it very difficult to learn another language.
Some people are good at languages, whereas others find it very difficult to learn another language.
- 6 I prefer reading and writing. My friend likes speaking and working in groups.
- 7 English is quite easy to learn in the early stages. French is quite difficult.
- 8 Russian uses the Cyrillic alphabet (привет). Polish uses the Roman alphabet (cześć).

Use of English: *although, while and whereas*

Although, while and whereas are conjunctions. They join clauses in a sentence.

Although is used to contrast two ideas. Read these sentences:

English is an official language. However, it is only spoken as a first language by a small percentage of the population.

You can join them together by using *although*:

Although English is an official language, it is only spoken as a first language by a small percentage of the population.

Whereas and *while* balance two contrasting ideas.

A pidgin language is one which is a mixture of two other languages, whereas/while a creole is a pidgin language that has become the mother tongue of a community.

Tok Pisin is sometimes used in the first three years of primary school, while/whereas English is used in secondary education.

Listening 2

- 5 Work with a partner. How good are you at learning a new language? Listen and practise the expressions in Tok Pisin.

It's good to learn languages

- Why is it good to learn another language?

Listening 3

- 1** You're going to hear some short interviews about knowing another language. What does each person focus on? Match the topics to the names.

1 Daniel

d meeting people socially

Names	Topics
1 Daniel	a work
2 Suzanne	b health
3 Elliot	c travel
4 Ayisha	d meeting people socially
5 Ben	e entertainment
6 Lisa	f education



- 2** Match the words from the interviews with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 at ease | a abilities to do something well |
| 2 advantages | b facts that tell you something is true |
| 3 improves | c makes better |
| 4 evidence | d relaxed |
| 5 skills | e the good points about something |

- 3** Listen again and answer these questions.

- 1 Why does Daniel think people are more willing to talk about themselves in their own language?
Because they are ...
- 2 According to Suzanne, what 'makes all the difference' when you visit another country?
Being able to ...
- 3 Why does Elliot like learning Spanish?
Because he can ...
- 4 Why is learning a language good for you, according to Ayisha?
Because it improves ...
- 5 What does Ben say about students who know another language?
They have better ...
- 6 According to Lisa, there are two advantages to knowing languages in the business world. What are they?
The first is that you're more likely to be The second is that you ...



4 Listen to the interviews again. Put your hand up when you hear each of these words and phrases.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 definitely | 4 it makes all the | 6 of course |
| 2 even if | difference | 7 more likely to be |
| 3 it's really useful | 5 a little bit | 8 for example |

Speaking

5 Work in groups. Give your views about the advantages of learning other languages. Try to use some of the words and phrases in Exercises 2 and 4.

Project: A mobile phone app

6 Design a mobile phone app to help you and other students learn English.

Work in groups. Decide what features it should have. Here are some ideas to help you. You can:

- look up the meaning of a word.
- watch films and cartoons in English.
- play games to practise your English.
- type in a word or sentence in your own language and see the translation.
- read short stories in English.
- listen to songs and see the words.
- hear the correct pronunciation of words or phrases.
- listen to a phrase. Then say it and record it. Compare and correct your pronunciation.
- learn grammar rules by watching animations.

Present your app to the class. Give examples to illustrate the features.

My mobile phone

With this mobile phone app you can do lots of things. You can:

- look up the meaning of a word.

You just type the word in and you can see the meaning.

It's easy to learn English



You can also: