



LANGUAGES

Discussion

Basic questions

1 How many languages can you speak? What is your favorite language?

**I can speak...language/s. My favorite language is....*

2 Does your native language have any loanwords from other languages?

**Yes, my native language have some loanwords from other languages. / No, my native language doesn't have any loanwords from other languages.*

3 How important is it to be able to speak English?

**To be able to speak English is important because...*

4 Do you think body language is universal?

**Yes, I think body language is universal. No, I don't think it's universal.*

5 How do you think the world would be different if there were only one language?

**I think the world would be...if there were only one language.*

6 In your opinion, what is the best way to learn and practice a foreign language?

**In my opinion, the best way to learn/practice a foreign language is to....*

Extended questions

1 Do you think it's so easy for children to learn languages and so difficult for adults?

**Yes, I think it's so easy for children to....because... / No, I don't think it's so easy for children to...because...*

2 What do you think of languages that are dying? Do you think they should be preserved?

**I think they should be...*

3 Can you think of some disadvantages of being monolingual?

**Some disadvantages of being monolingual are...*

4 What are the advantages of being bilingual or multilingual?

**The advantages of being bilingual/multilingual are...*

5 Why do you think there are so many different languages in the world?

**I think there are so many languages in the world are....*

6 Do you think English should become an official language in your country?

**Yes, I think English should become...because... / No, I don't think English should become....because...*

Vocabulary

1 Cognate (/ˈkɔːɡneɪt/)

(adjective) Having the same origin as another word or language

Ex. German and Dutch are cognate languages.

2 Vernacular (/vərˈnækjələr/)

(adjective) (of language) spoken in a particular area or by a particular group, especially when it is not the official or written language

Ex. We speak vernacular in our city.

3 Unpronounceable (/ˌʌnpɹəˈnaʊnsəbl/)

(adjective) (of a word) too difficult to pronounce

Ex. Your name is unpronounceable.

4 Binomial (/baɪˈnɒmiəl/)

(adjective) Used to describe a pair of nouns joined by a word like “and”, where the order of the noun is always the same,

Ex. “knife and fork”

5 Broken (/ˈbrʊkən/)

(adjective) (of a language that is not your own) spoken slowly and with a lot of mistakes, not fluent

Ex. She only speaks broken English and will need an interpreter for her hospital appointment.

Idioms / Useful Expressions

1 Command (of something) – your knowledge of something, your ability to do or use something, especially language

Ex. Applicants will be expected to have a good command of English.

2 In plain English – simply and clearly expressed, without using technical language

Ex. A document written in plain English.

3 To pick up a language – to learn a language easily and casually, usually by listening to native speakers and practising it without formal lessons

Ex. He picked up Mandarin by listening to his colleagues.