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AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD



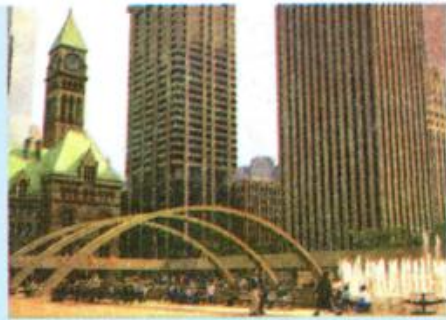
READING

Before You Read

Check (✓) the appropriate boxes to show whether English is used as the first, second, or foreign language in the countries in the box.



Singapore



Toronto



Mexico City



New York City



New Delhi



Paris

Countries	First language	Second language	Foreign language
Viet Nam			
Singapore			
France			
The United States			
India			
Mexico			
Britain			
Australia			
New Zealand			
Canada			
South Africa			

Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

Although English is not the language with the largest number of native or 'first' language speakers, it has become a lingua franca. Many people living in the European Union, for example, frequently communicate in English as well as in their own languages. Like Latin in Europe in the Middle Ages, English is one of the main languages of international communication.

A major factor in the popularity of English has been the spread of commerce throughout the world and, in particular, the emergence of the United Kingdom and the United States as world economic powers. Moreover, much tourism is carried on, around the world, in English. So far, English has been the language of international air traffic control and is used widely in international sports games.

In the Western world, English is a dominant language in popular culture. Pop music in English has spread all over the world. Thus many people who are not English speakers can sing words from their favorite English songs. David Graddol, a British linguist, believes that English accounted for 80 percent of computer-based communication in the 1990s.

So far, we have talked about English as one language, and it has been referred to in the singular. Yet English, much like other languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, or Arabic, can take many forms. Most people are familiar with the fact that British and American English, while being similar, have many differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling. However, these are not the only varieties of English. Geography, social class, ethnic grouping, etc., affect the language being used. All varieties, whether South African, Canadian, Australian, or Singaporean, will have their own specific words and phrases and their own grammatical structures and pronunciation manners. There is, then, a wide variety of English, and this makes it difficult to describe the English language.

- a) Match each word or phrase in column A with a suitable definition or synonym in column B.

A	B
1. first language speaker	a. advent (the appearance of something)
2. emergence	b. make up
3. economic power	c. one who speaks his/her mother tongue
4. dominant	d. a country that has a well-developed economy
5. account for	e. more important (than other things)

- b) Check (✓) whether the following sentences are true (T), false (F), or not mentioned (NI) in the text. Then correct the false sentences.

	T	F	NI
1. All the people living in the European Union use English instead of their own languages.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The spread of international trade has led to the increasing use of English in many parts of the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. English is used when a pilot asks for instructions at an international airport.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Most of the information on the Internet is in English.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Ethnic groups speak with the same English accent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) *Decide which of the following statements are facts (F) and which ones are opinions (O).*

- | | F | O |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. English is one of the main languages of international communication. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I think most tourists use English when they are in a foreign country. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. English is used widely in international sports games. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. American English and British English have many differences in vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and spelling. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Graddol believes that English accounted for 80 percent of computer-based communication in the 1990s. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Many people suppose that it is difficult to describe the English language. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

d) *Work in groups of four. Discuss how English is used in Viet Nam.*



LISTENING

a) *Work in pairs. Answer the following questions.*

1. On what occasions do you offer gifts to your friends or relatives?
2. Do you often give vouchers as gifts?
3. What do you know about 'etiquette'?

b) *Listen to a passage about the Americans' ways of offering gifts and check (✓) whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).*

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Almost every American offers gifts to their friends or relatives. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. In the United States, gift-givers need not follow any rules. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Americans often bring a gift of money to a funeral. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. A gift of money given to low-income elderly pensioners is not acceptable. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. A gift voucher to a popular store is often appreciated in the United States. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- c) Listen to the first part of the passage again and fill the blanks with the missing information.

Emily Post was an American writer who became famous for her book on correct (1)_____ for social behaviors in the United States. Everyone (2)_____ at some time or another, and Ms. Post explains what to do in each situation. Whether the occasion is a (3)_____ party for a friend, relative, or (4)_____, there are some basic rules the (5)_____ and the receiver should follow. Flowers can be a wonderful gift to both men and women. For occasions such as (6)_____ and dinner parties, flowers are often required. Bringing the flowers in a vase can save the host or (7)_____ the trouble of running off to find a vase for the (8)_____ flowers. A plant is another choice if the receiver is a man.

- d) Work in groups of four. Talk about how Vietnamese people often offer gifts on special occasions such as weddings, birthday parties, and funerals.



SPEAKING

Expressing Optimism or Pessimism

- a) Work in pairs. Read the exchanges below, put the italicized parts in the appropriate columns, and add more expressions of your own.
- A: You look upset, don't you? What has happened to you?
 B: *I feel depressed as I think I am a failure.* I have always failed at interviews for jobs.
 - A: *It's very hopeful. I'm quite certain* that you'll pass the next English examination.
 B: Thank you for your encouraging words.
 - A: *The situation seems to be hopeless.* My mother's health seems to become worse every day.
 B: I'm sorry to hear about that.
 - A: How is your brother getting on with his English proficiency course?
 B: He's doing very well. *I hope he'll pass* the proficiency test with high scores.

Useful Expressions

Expressing Optimism

- It's very hopeful.
-
-
-

Expressing Pessimism

- I feel depressed as ...
-
-
-

b) *Work in pairs. Express your optimism or pessimism about the following situations.*

You want to

- get a scholarship to attend a university abroad, but you don't think you can get one.
- pass an interview for a job, and you think you can succeed in doing it.
- pass the entrance examination to a university, and you are full of hope of passing it.
- persuade a friend of yours to stop cheating at the exams, but that student refuses to listen to you.
- find a part-time job, but you are not able to find a suitable one.



WRITING

Writing a Report about a Famous Place

a) *Read the following report about Oxford.*

REPORT

To: XYZ Tourism Office

From: Ann Williams

Subject: The City of Oxford

We visited Oxford City on our trip to Britain on June 15-25 and were very impressed by its ancient and modern features.

Oxford, The City of Dreaming Spires, is famous all over the world for its University and place in history. For over 800 years, it has been home to royalty and scholars, and since the 9th century an established town, although people are known to have lived in the area for thousands of years.

Oxford is not only famous for its architecture. In the 20th century, it has developed quickly as an industrial and commercial center. Nowadays, it is a bustling cosmopolitan city, still with its ancient University, but home also to a growing hi-tech community. Many businesses are located in and around the city, whether on



one of the Science and Business Parks or within one of a number of residential areas. The Rover Group factory at Cowley, for example, is an important part of Britain's motor industry. Oxford is also an important center in the world of medicine. It is the home of Oxfam, the charity which raises millions of pounds to help poor people all over the world; and its airport contains Europe's leading air-training school.

Whether tourists visit Oxford for business or pleasure, there is plenty for them to enjoy and to do. This is a busy city, but, according to the local tourist board office, it is never unpleasantly crowded.

Outline

1. Introduction to the place
2. Oxford City's history
3. The development of Oxford
4. Other features

Useful Expressions

- It is famous for
- It has been / is home to
- It is a bustling cosmopolitan city.
- Many businesses are located in
- It is a popular attraction for

b) Write a report about a famous city that you know following the outline and the useful expressions listed above.



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Words Related to People and Cities

- a) In each diagram, four of the surrounding words cannot go with the noun in the center. Underline these words. The first one has been done for you.

<u>excited</u>		old	prosperous	upset
	exciting		home	modern
polluted		CITY		busy
	capital	industrial	agricultural	
antique		cosmopolitan	historic	small

popular	antique	elderly	
	expensive	PEOPLE	sophisticated
bored			optimistic
	boring	etiquette	wealthy
native	powerful	crowded	reserved
			busy

- b) Fill in the blanks with the adjectives from a). Use a different word in each blank.

- A: Tommy's really _____. He always hopes for the best.
B: He does.
- A: New York is a _____ city, isn't it?
B: It sure is. You can find people from all over the world there.
- A: Are Singaporeans _____ speakers of English?
B: No. They speak English as a second language.
- A: Did you have a good time in London?
B: We had a great time. It is really a _____ city with a lot of beautiful new buildings.
- A: What is the _____ city of Australia?
B: Canberra.

Grammar

Comment Tags / Comment Clauses and Question Tags



Examples

1. A: The situation seems very hopeful.
B: *It does.*
2. A: Sydney is famous for its magnificent Sydney Opera House.
B: *It is.*
3. A: You look upset, *don't you?*
B: Yes. I feel depressed as I think I'm a failure.

Complete the exchanges with comment tags or question tags.

1. A: Latin was a dominant language in Europe in the Middle Ages.
B: It _____.
2. A: Pop music in English has spread all over the world, _____?
B: Yes, I think it has.
3. A: You can sing English songs, _____?
B: Yes, I can.
4. A: People say that Chicago is a windy city.
B: That's _____.
5. A: Let's listen to some English songs, _____?
B: Yes, let's.
6. A: That student looks optimistic.
B: He _____.

Conditional Sentences (Review)

- a) Fill in the blanks with the correct expressions / conjunctions of condition in the box to complete the sentences.

if	without	unless	were
provided	in case	supposing	should

1. What _____ you get to a new place and can't speak English?
2. He would starve _____ his pension.
3. _____ I hadn't learned English before, I would not get this job.

4. _____ you change your mind, I won't be able to help you.
5. _____ you keep it in good condition, I'll lend you my car.
6. _____ we miss the plane, what shall we do?
7. _____ he happen to come, please give me a call.
8. _____ the government to cut value-added tax, prices would fall.

b) Use the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. If a driver _____ (brake) suddenly on a wet road, he _____ (skid).
2. I _____ (use) the wrong medicine because I couldn't read the instructions. If I had been able to read the instructions, I _____ (be) all right.
3. – Why not _____ (buy) a season ticket?
– I always _____ (lose) everything. If I _____ (buy) a season ticket, I _____ (lose) it.
4. – If I _____ (see) a tiger _____ (walk) past me, I _____ (climb) a tree.
– That _____ (not, be) of any use. The tiger _____ (climb) after you.

c) Rewrite the sentences in such a way that they mean almost the same as those printed before.

1. We didn't go by air only because we didn't have enough money.
We would _____
2. If he were able to speak English fluently, he would be employed by that company.
He cannot _____
3. It was raining, so I didn't take the children to the beach.
If _____
4. Take a taxi. Otherwise you'll miss your train.
Unless you _____
5. It is possible that he will succeed in the interview when he can speak English fluently.
If he _____