

LESSON 1

Pre-lesson student worksheet – WITH ANSWERS



Task 1: Discuss with a partner

1. Does your language have different varieties or dialects? Which ones? How are they different?
2. Do you use English words in your language? If so, which ones?
3. Why do you think so many people speak English?

Task 2: Read the text and answer the questions

English never stops changing

All languages are in flux. In other words, they are constantly changing. This is especially true of English which is a real global language. There are now three times more non-native speakers of English than natives. About one billion people speak it as a foreign language, while only 360 million speak it as a mother tongue. So, why is English changing and is this a good thing?

One reason is globalisation. These days, business meetings can be held with people from all over the world – like Brazil, Nigeria and Japan. Nearly always, the only common language spoken will be English. This has led to the creation of a new language variety, called International English. It's a kind of English which speakers from all countries can use to talk to each other.

English plays a different role in different countries. In Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines, English is spoken as a second language. In the Philippines, Tagalog (the country's main language) and English merge to create a variety called Taglish. But some local languages don't merge with official languages in this way, and they are in danger because fewer people speak them.

The use of slang also changes a language. For example, colloquial terms such as *innit?* (*isn't it?*) and *like*, are used so much in contemporary English that they are now a kind of punctuation. But if people use these terms to communicate, maybe they should count as real words.

The fact is languages evolve because new words are constantly being added to them. Nouns such as *emoticon*, *spam* or *blog* and verbs like *google*, *photoshop* or *Skype* have all been introduced into language thanks to digital technology and will be with us for a long time. There is much discussion whether these words should be in the dictionary or not – and some new words never make it. But at the same time, some words and languages that have been with us for a long time, are disappearing.

Glossary

contemporary (adj) belonging to the present time

merge (v) join to become one

mother tongue (n) the language you learn and speak as a child

punctuation (n) signs that organise text.

1. Why is English considered to be a 'global language'?
2. What is 'International English'?
3. How many people speak English as a second language?
4. Why are some local languages in danger?
5. How does slang change a language?
6. Why are words like *emoticon*, *spam* or *blog* now part of our language?

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Task 3: Live Class activities preparation

You will ask and answer some of these questions in your Live Class. Getting some practice and ideas BEFORE your Live Class will help. Have a look at these questions, think of a response, and then ask and answer with your classmates.

Your language learning experiences

1. At what age did you start learning English?
2. How many hours of English do you have per week?
3. Do you learn any other school subjects in English?
4. What other languages do you learn in your school?
5. Why do you think it's important to learn foreign languages?
6. What is the best way to learn foreign languages outside of school?

Discussion questions: English and other languages. Agree or disagree? Why?

1. It's a good idea for parents who speak English as a second language to speak to their children in English some or all of the time.
2. We should only learn languages that are spoken in the global world of work, they are the useful ones.
3. We should try to keep all languages alive.
4. A person lives as many lives as they speak languages.
5. English is the most important school subject.

Teaching your language

You will also have to teach some of your first language to another school whose students have a different first language in the Live Class. You can practice this before the Live Class too!

You will need to teach:

4 basic words / phrases:

- Hello
- How are you?
- My name is...
- Thank you

1 unusual expression of your choice

You can teach your words in this way:

- Listen / repeat – Say the words and have the other school repeat them
- Write in chatbox – So the students in the other school can see how the word looks
- Give feedback – tell the other school how they are doing and if they need to change anything

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Answer key

Task 1: students' own answers

Task 2:

1. Why is English considered to be a 'global language'?

Large numbers of people speak it around the world.

2. What is 'International English'?

English used by speakers from all countries to communicate with each other.

3. How many people speak English as a second language?

About one billion.

4. Why are some local languages in danger?

Fewer people speak them and they can't merge with official languages.

5. How does slang change a language?

It becomes part of it.

6. Why are words like *emoticon*, *spam* or *blog* now part of our language?

Because they come from new technology.

Task 3: Live Class activities preparation

Your students will ask and answer a series of questions during the Live Class. They are on your pre-lesson worksheet as some preparation on these questions will give students ideas and enable them to give more developed answers during the class (though they by no means need to 'pre-learn' answers).

In addition, at the end of the Live Class your students will need to teach four basic phrases and an expression of their choice in their own language to students of a school who speak a different language (and vice versa!). You might like to decide which unusual expression to teach before the class and practice the 'modelling' of these different phrases.