**English Test**

Your final task is to write an opinion text commenting a statement about the negative effects of the existence of so many languages in the world.

Activities **A** and **B** will provide you with input for Activity **C**.

**Part I - ACTIVITY A**

1. **Match the words/expressions in bold in column A with their corresponding meaning in column B. One of the meanings does not apply. (5 points)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Column A** | **Column B** |
| **1-** As a new millennium begins, **scholars** say that about one-fourth of the world's population can communicate to some degree in English..  **2-** It has consolidated its dominance as the language of the Internet, where 80 percent of the world's electronically **stored** information is in English.  **3-** As English continues to spread, the linguists say, it is fragmenting, as Latin did, into a family of dialects, and perhaps eventually fully **fledged** languages, known as Englishes.  **4-** One enterprising scholar has translated "Don Quixote" into Spanglish, the **hybrid** of English and Spanish that is spoken along the borders of Mexico and the United States..  **5-** By the most common **estimates**, 400 million people speak English as a first language. | **a) developed**  **b) figures**  **c) mixture**  **d) experts**  **e) kept**  **f)** **shop** |

1. **Complete the text about the languages spoken in the world, using words/expressions from the list (1-12). Do not use the same word/expression more than once. Four of them do not apply. Write only the numbers and the words. (25 points)**

knowledge

word

means

world

primitive

learning

customs

ability

understand

mean

confusing

spoken

foreign language

structure

sentence

meanings

There are over 10,000 known languages spoken in the world. Some are …1… and some are very advanced. The English language is both. An example would be the sentence, “I see red”. This can …2… you see the color red. It also means you are very angry. To ask someone to learn English is more than asking them to gain a …3… of a …4… .

It is asking them to become familiar with our …5…, expressions, and ways of life. For instance to say to someone you could eat a horse may make them wonder what type of diet you have. They do not …6… you are stating you are extremely hungry. Comprehending the English language can get very complicated when you stop and realize that even one …7… can have several different …8…. Use the word rock for this example.

Yet another confusing thing is sentence …9…. You can be bored stiff or stiff as a board. Writing this can show the difference. However the …10… language does not allow the …11… to see how a word is written. When you think about how someone could become confused when hearing these two phrases, you can understand the problems which come with …12… English.

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1. **Fill in the gaps with a derivative of the words given. Write the letter of the sentence and the new word. (10 points)**
2. The Times is perhaps the most famous ……………………… **(day)** newspaper in Britain.
3. A Thesaurus is a very……………………… **(use)** thing to have with you when you go abroad.
4. Freedom from ……………………… **(poor)** all over the world should be a human right.
5. ……. (**Interact)** is the civilized way of communication.
6. In China the several spoken dialects are mutually … **(intelligible).**
7. There was an amusing ………………… **(print)** in today’s newspaper. Instead of saying ‘‘The choir often sings for charity’’ it said, ‘‘The choir often sins for charity’’.

**ACTIVITY B – Read the text carefully**

# As English's dominance continues, linguists see few threats to its rule.

# But new dialects and technology pose challenges

There may be more native speakers of Chinese, Spanish, or Hindi, but it is English they speak when **they** talk across cultures, and English they teach their children to help **them** become citizens of an increasingly intertwined world. As English continues to spread, the linguists say, it is fragmenting, as Latin did, into a family of dialects, and perhaps eventually fully fledged languages, known as Englishes. New vernaculars have emerged in such places as Singapore, Nigeria, and the Caribbean, although widespread literacy and mass communication may be slowing the natural process of diversification. The pidgin of Papua New Guinea already has its own literature and translations of Shakespeare. One enterprising scholar has translated "Don Quixote" into Spanglish, the hybrid of English and Spanish that is spoken along the borders of Mexico and the United States. But unlike Latin and other former common languages, most scholars say English seems to be too widespread and too deeply entrenched to die out. Instead, it will probably survive in some simplified international form -- sometimes called Globish or World Standard Spoken English -- side by side with its offspring. As a simplified form of global English emerges, the diverging forms spoken in Britain and America could become no more than local dialects -- two more Englishes alongside the Singlish spoken in Singapore or the Taglish spoken in the Philippines. A native speaker of English might need to become bilingual in his own language to converse with other speakers of global English. Although Chinese and other languages are rapidly increasing **their** share of Internet traffic, English is likely to remain the common language, specialists say. The teaching of English has become a multibillion-dollar industry, and according to Graddol, nearly one-third of the world's population will soon be studying English. By the most common estimates, 400 million people speak English as a first language, 300 million to 500 million others as a fluent second language, and perhaps 750 million as a foreign language. The largest English-speaking nation in the world, the United States, has only about 20% of the world's English speakers. In Asia alone, an estimated 350 million people speak English, about the same as the combined English-speaking populations of Britain, the United States, and Canada. But in the end, Ostler said, the advance of technology that helped push English into its commanding position could pull it down again. Though it still sounds like science fiction, it seems likely that some time, many decades from now, a machine will be perfected that can produce Urdu when it hears someone speaking German. "With progress, the problem of machine translation and automatic interpreting is going to be solved," Ostler said. "And the need for a common language is going to be technically replaced."  **By Seth Mydans, International Herald Tribune  |  April 29, 2007**

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As a new millennium begins, scholars say that about one-fourth of the world's population can communicate to some degree in English. It is the common language in almost every endeavor, from science to air traffic control to the global jihad, **where** it is apparently the means of communication between speakers of Arabic and other languages. It has consolidated **its** dominance as the language of the Internet, where 80% of the world's electronically stored information is in English, according to David Graddol, a linguist and researcher.

1. **Identify, in the text, 4 fields where English is the common language. (10 points)**
2. **What do the underlined words refers to in the text. (10 points)**

a) where b) its c) they d) them e) their

**3- Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE. Quote the text to justify your choice. (30 points)**

a) English is spoken by 25% of the world’s population.

b) Many parents want their children to learn English to be citizens of the world.

c) English native speakers don’t need to learn other languages.

d) Only 20% of the USA’s population speaks English.

e) Technology may have a negative effect on the influence of English in the world.

**4- Choose the right option for each situation. (30 points)**

**4.1-** Lately I ... (watch) news and films in English ... (improve) my language skills.

**a)** have watched … improving **b)** have watched ... to improve **c)** watched ... to improve

**4.2-** We are ... small family who invite ... foreign students to become part of ... growing international family.

**a)** the … a … an **b)** a … the ... a  **c)** a ... X ... a

**4.3- If students don’t learn foreign languages, they ... chances of finding a good job.**

a) won’t have b) will have c) have

**4.4- I … many emails to my best friends when I ... an Erasmus programme.**

a) sent … attend b) send ... was attending c) sent ... attended

**4.5-** **She … Russian for 3 years now and she still ... the alphabet.**

a) has been studying ... doesn’t know b) studied ... doesn’t know c) has studied ... knows

**Part I I - ACTIVITY C (80 points)**

**“If we all talked the same language, we wouldn’t have so many wars. Different languages make it harder for countries to understand each other’s ideas, hopes and fears.**

Write an **opinion text** commenting the above statement.

Write about **150 words**.



