

1

Learning languages

In this unit you can

- * talk about languages
- * give opinions
- * make comparisons

1 Listen and speak

a Which languages do you speak? When, where and how did you learn them?

b ▶ **CD1 T4** Listen to a podcast interview. Which is the best title?

1

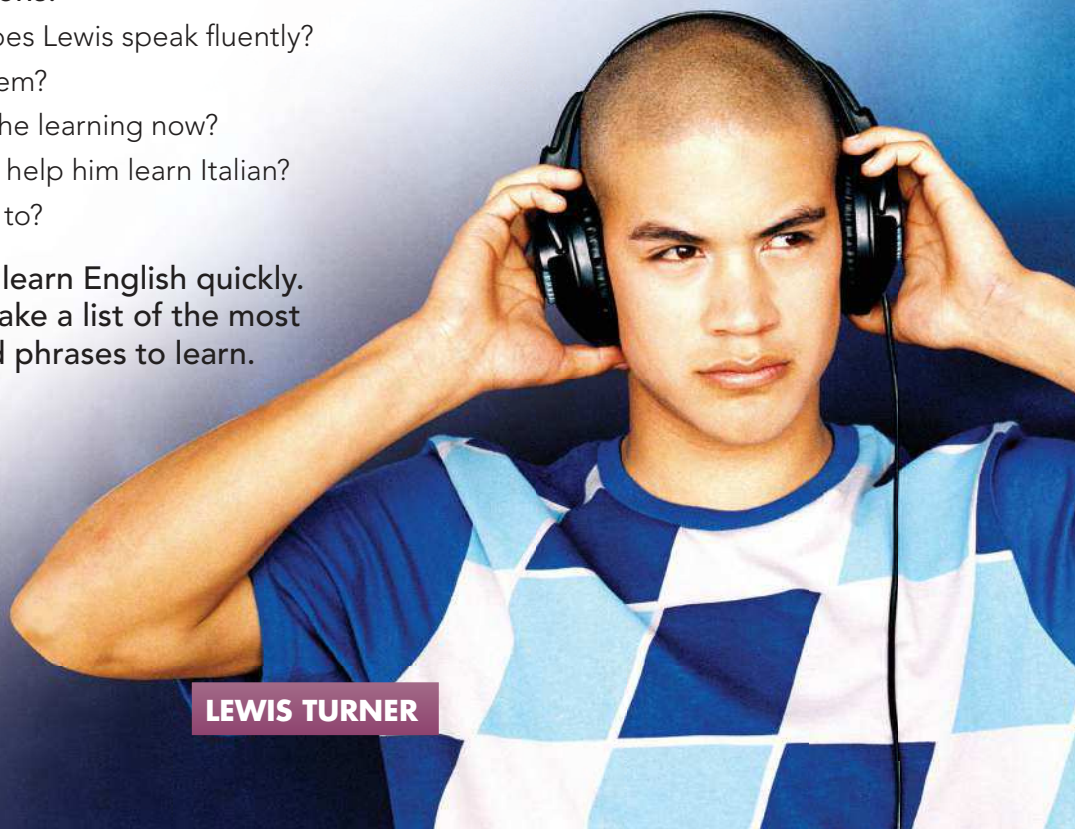
2

3

c ▶ **CD1 T4** Listen again and make notes to answer the questions.

- 1 Which languages does Lewis speak fluently?
- 2 How did he learn them?
- 3 Which languages is he learning now?
- 4 What did he read to help him learn Italian?
- 5 What does he listen to?

d Your friend wants to learn English quickly. Work in groups to make a list of the most important words and phrases to learn.



LEWIS TURNER

2 Focus on language
 * Language comparisons

Chinese English French
 German Greek Italian
 Japanese Portuguese
 Russian Spanish

a ▶ **CD1 T5** Match the phrases for *Thank you* with the languages. Then listen, check and repeat.

* **Pronunciation: word stress**

b ▶ **CD1 T6** Copy and complete the table. Listen and mark the stress. Then make sentences.

Country	Language
China	Chinese

People in **China** speak Chinese.

c Find the comparative adjectives in the examples and answer the questions.
 Learning German was more difficult than Spanish.
 My German is better than my Italian.
 Chinese grammar is easier than Japanese.

Focus
 * Comparatives
 1 When do we add *-er* to an adjective?
 2 When do we use *more* + adjective?
Grammar reference page 87

LB pages 2 and 6 **WB** pages 4–5

3 Speak

a Compare the things in the box.

My German is worse than my Spanish.

the languages you speak two films
 two TV series your favourite school subjects

b How do you feel about learning English? Put the words in order from 1 *easy* to 8 *difficult*. Then compare with a partner.

grammar listening pronunciation reading
 speaking spelling vocabulary writing

4 Read and speak

* Language learning

- a** Do the questionnaire. Then compare your answers.

What kind of
LANGUAGE LEARNER are you?

- 1 When your teacher explains a new word, do you ...**
 - repeat it again and again to remember it?
 - ask your teacher to write it on the board?
 - imagine a picture to help you remember it?
- 2 When you make a mistake in class, do you ...**
 - feel stupid because you didn't know it?
 - not worry about it because we all learn from our mistakes?
 - write it down so you don't forget the correct form?
- 3 When you don't understand a word, do you ...**
 - ask your teacher to translate it?
 - look it up in a dictionary?
 - guess what it means?
- 4 How do you learn new words?**
 - I work with vocabulary cards.
 - I make a mind map.
 - I copy them again and again.
- 5 How do you practise speaking English?**
 - I talk to English native speakers.
 - I listen to songs and sing along to them.
 - I learn and record the dialogues from the book.
- 6 Do you do any of these in English?**
 - I read newspapers, magazines or books.
 - I watch DVDs, TV series or video clips.
 - I write messages or posts on social network sites.

- b** Find these language learning words and phrases in the questionnaire. Write them on page 3 of the Language Builder.

forget guess know learn make a mistake mean
 practise remember translate understand

LB page 3

WB page 6

Vocabulary bank page 89

5 Speak and write

- a** Talk about the things you can do outside class to learn more English.

I think it's a good idea to ...

It's useful to ... because ...

I don't think it's good to ...

- b** Make an advice sheet with your favourite tips.

TEN TOP LANGUAGE LEARNING TIPS

- Watch DVDs in English with the subtitles in English to practise reading and listening.
- Listen to songs in English and write down the words. Then guess the meaning of the new words.

6 Read

- a** Read the language facts. Two of them are false. Which do you think they are?

AMAZING FACTS OR JUST LIES?

- A** The shortest place names have only one letter. There are towns in Norway and Sweden called Å and there is a river called D in Oregon, in the USA.
- B** Khmer, the official language in Cambodia, has the longest alphabet of all languages. There are 74 letters.
- C** There are many countries in the world where people speak more than one language. South Africa has the most official languages – there are 11 – as well as hundreds of other languages. There are more than 850 languages in Papua New Guinea, 742 in Indonesia and 516 in Nigeria.
- D** The language with the most vowel sounds is Sedang, a minority language from Vietnam.
- E** The longest word in the English language is *dispercombobulation* – it's got 19 letters.
- F** The longest one-word place name in the world is in New Zealand: *Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu* (85 letters).
- G** The most frequent letter in English is *e*. The least frequent letter is *q*.
- H** In 2013, there were 198 languages in the world that had fewer than ten speakers.
- I** The language with the most words is probably English, with more than one million words. Of course, no one knows them all!
- J** The easiest language to learn is Taki Taki (also known as Sranan), a language spoken in Suriname, South America. It hasn't got any grammar and there are only about 340 words.
- K** Somalia is the only African country where everyone speaks the same language – Somali.

- b** Read again and answer.

- Which letter is the name of a river in the USA?
- Which country has the most official languages?
- What is the most frequent letter in English?
- In which African country does everyone speak the same language?

7 Focus on language

* Comparisons 2

- a** Read the language facts again and find the superlative sentences. Then answer the question.

- b** **Communication in mind**

Turn to page 63 and play the game.

FOCUS

* Superlatives

What is the difference between these sentences?
For me, Spanish is easier to learn than German.
The easiest language to learn is Taki Taki.

Grammar reference page 87

LB pages 7–8 **WB** pages 6–7

Culture in mind

8 Speak and read

- a** ▶ **CD 17** Read the cartoon.
 What do you think the boy means?
 Listen and check your ideas.
- b** Do all teenagers use the same words?
 Why do teenagers invent new words?
 Read the article and compare your ideas.



Teen talk

Teenagers all over the world invent new words and phrases for everyday things. They create words that mean *bad*, *good-looking*, *parents*, *good* and so on. Here are some different ways of saying *good* in English teen talk from the last 50 years:



1960s **groovy** (or **fab**)

1970s **neat**

1980s **ace**

1990s **wicked**

2000s **cool**

2010s **NANG** **PIFF**
BUZZING

What next?

Not all teenagers in a country use the same words. The way you speak depends on your interests, your friends, the music you listen to and the part of the country you live in. Different groups of teenagers have different likes and dislikes and so they have different expressions.

Why do teenagers invent new words, or invent new meanings for old words? Many people say it's because they don't want adults to understand them, but the real reason is that teenagers want to be part of a group – a group that speaks a language that is different from the one that their parents and other adults speak. Also, teenagers are creative and like playing with language, so they have fun inventing new words and phrases.

What do *rents* (parents) and *mouldies* (old people) think about it all? Most of them don't worry about it – after all, they had their own special words when they were teenagers. Some adults complain about teen talk and get annoyed by it, but that's all part of the fun for teenagers!

History The English language

9 Read and speak

a Answer the questions. Then scan the text and check your ideas.

- 1 Where is English the mother tongue?
- 2 When did people in Britain start speaking a form of English?
- 3 Which languages is English related to?

A short history of ENGLISH

More than 350 million people around the world speak English as a first language. They live in Britain, North America, Australia, New Zealand, India, and parts of Africa and the Caribbean.

Old English

In the 5th century AD, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes invaded Britain from the north. They came from the countries that we call Denmark and northern Germany, and they all spoke Germanic languages. People in England started speaking the same language and we now call this language Old English. Old English didn't sound or look like English today. The words *strong* and *water* both come from Old English.

Middle English

In 1066 William of Normandy invaded Britain. The new conquerors, the Normans, spoke a kind of French. Many people in Britain learned to speak it, and many French words entered English, for example *beef* and *pork*. We now call this language Middle English. It was very different from the English that we speak now.

In Shakespeare's day

By the 16th century, the English that people spoke was not very different from the language that we speak now. William Shakespeare was the most famous person to write in English at this time, and we still use many phrases and sayings from his works. For example, when we say *Love is blind* or *To be or not to be*, we are quoting Shakespeare.

Modern English

Modern English is still changing as people from Britain have moved all over the world. In each new country, English changed and took in new words from the local languages. For example, *kangaroo* is a native Australian word, and *shampoo* comes from an Indian language. English is now a truly international language.

b Read the text again and find:

- 1 two words that come from Old English
- 2 two English words that come from French
- 3 two words in English that come from other languages

c Which language do these words come from? Copy and complete the table. Then use a dictionary to check that they mean the same.

adult come friend interest language
 parent phrase speak word world

French	German
<i>adult</i>	<i>come</i>