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## The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/05/17

### Junker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?

Last week, the President of the European Union, Jean Claude Juncker, said English is losing its importance in Europe. He made the remark, at a meeting of European diplomats and experts in Florence, Italy. Is it true?

Junker said, "Slowly but surely, English is losing importance in Europe. The French will have elections on Sunday, and I would like them to understand what I am saying." He then switched into French for the rest of his speech. Whilst this might have been done to please the French voters ahead of the election, it is a fair point he raises, and to debate now.

When the UK leaves the EU, it will leave Ireland and Malta in the English speaking club. The French, Belgians, and Luxembourgers, can then revert to speaking French. That leaves the Germans, who are the dominant members of the EU. Yes, but what about the other members of the EU, especially those from east and central Europe, as well as the Scandinavian and southern European countries.

What is the most common language spoken by everyone? It's English, of course. Why? Because of history, the British Empire, and now America. Today, it is the second language many people want to learn. It is the business language of the world. It is also the language used in IT programming.

Now that the UK is leaving the EU, perhaps English won't be needed? Could language be the new EU tool of control? After all, the EU club was based originally around speaking French, as the main or second language. It based itself in Brussels, as a neutral and central point of the then EEC.

From a geographical point of view, perhaps the EU should move itself to Vienna, in Austria? The city has a far more central position in Europe. Then everyone would have to speak German. Now that really would upset the French! "Non, non, non, monsieur!"

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is the most important second language in Europe? Why? What is the most important second language in your country? Why? Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What is the job title of Jean Claude Juncker?
- 2) Where is Brussels?
- 3) Where is Vienna?
- 4) What does 'EEC' mean?
- 5) What did Mr Juncker say?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Where was Mr Juncker speaking?
- 2) What nationality is Jean Claude Juncker?
- 3) What is the main second language of the EU?
- 4) What is the fair point raised?
- 5) What is the business language of the world?

**Category: Europe / EU / English**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe? – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words about '**English**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three advantages of speaking English, in Europe. Write them below. Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three advantages of speaking French or German, in Europe. Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 4

*In pairs* - *Student A* is student learning English in your country. *Student B* is a student learning English in other. (Imagine!) Start talking about why you are learning English, what books you use to learn English, how often you speak English, etc. *3 mins.*

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Is English the business language of the world? Explain.
- 3) How important is English in IT programming?
- 4) What second language do you use for writing emails and speaking? Why?
- 5) Should the EU HQ in Brussels relocate to Vienna, after Brexit? Explain.
- 6) Should the Brexit negotiations be done in French? Explain.
- 7) Will diplomats revert to speaking French in future in the EU? Explain.
- 8) What do the East and Central European countries think of perhaps speaking French and German as a second language in the EU in future?
- 9) Why do many people choose to speak English as a second language?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?*

- 1) Someone from central Europe.
- 2) Someone from Luxembourg/France.
- 3) Someone from Scandinavia.
- 4) Someone from southern Europe.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

*Individually* - prepare to speak to the class for a minute in English, about why you learn English? **Or**, is English losing its importance in Europe? Is it? *You have three mins to prepare some notes.*

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

**Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?**

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How important is English in your country? Why? Was it always so?
- 3) What level is your English?
- 4) How long have you been speaking English?
- 5) What other languages do you speak?
- 6) How often do you speak English? Why?
- 7) What is the last English book you read? Was it difficult to read?
- 8) Is Mr Juncker right when he says English is losing its importance in Europe? Explain.
- 9) Will French replace English in the EU, after the UK leaves the EU?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### **Junker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?**

Last week, the President of the European Union, Jean Claude Juncker, said English is losing its importance in Europe. He made the (1)\_\_, at a meeting of European (2)\_\_ and experts in Florence, Italy. Is it true?

Junker said, "(3)\_\_ but surely, English is losing importance in Europe. The French will have (4)\_\_ on Sunday, and I would like them to understand what I am saying." He then switched into French for the rest of his speech. Whilst this might have been done to please the French (5)\_\_ ahead of the election, it is a fair point he raises, and to (6)\_\_ now.

When the UK leaves the EU, it will leave Ireland and Malta in the English speaking (7)\_\_. The French, Belgians, and Luxembourgers, can then (8)\_\_ to speaking French.

***debate / elections / slowly / revert / remark / club / diplomats / voters /***

That leaves the Germans, who are the (1)\_\_ members of the EU. Yes, but what about the other members of the EU, (2)\_\_ those from east and central Europe, as well as the Scandinavian and southern European countries.

What is the most (3)\_\_ language spoken by everyone? It's English, of course. Why? Because of history, the British Empire, and now America. Today, it is the second language many people want to learn. It is the (4)\_\_ language of the world. It is also the language used in IT programming.

Now that the UK is leaving the EU, perhaps English won't be needed? Could language be the new EU (5)\_\_ of control? After all, the EU club was based (6)\_\_ around speaking French, as the main or second language. It based (7)\_\_ in Brussels, as a (8)\_\_ and central point of the then EEC.

***neutral / business / common / dominant / originally / especially / itself / tool***

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### **Junker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?**

Last week, the President of the European Union, Jean Claude Juncker, said English is losing (1)\_\_ importance in Europe. He made the remark, at a meeting of European diplomats and experts (2)\_\_ Florence, Italy. Is it true?

Junker said, "Slowly but surely, English is losing importance in Europe. The French will have elections on Sunday, and (3)\_\_ would like them to understand what I am saying." (4)\_\_ then switched into French (5)\_\_ the rest of his speech. (6)\_\_ this might have been done to please the French voters ahead (7)\_\_ the election, it is a fair point he raises, and to debate now.

When the UK leaves the EU, (8)\_\_ will leave Ireland and Malta in the English speaking club. The French, Belgians, and Luxembourgers, can then revert to speaking French.

***whilst / he / I / in / its / of / it / for***

That leaves the Germans, who are the dominant members of the EU. Yes, but what about the other members of the EU, especially (1)\_\_ from east and central Europe, (2)\_\_ the Scandinavian and southern European countries.

(3)\_\_ is the most common language spoken by everyone? It's English, of course. Why? (4)\_\_ of history, the British Empire, and now America. Today, it is the second language (5)\_\_ people want to learn. It is the business language of the world. It is (6)\_\_ the language used in IT programming.

Now (7)\_\_ the UK is leaving the EU, perhaps English won't be needed? (8)\_\_ language be the new EU tool of control? After all, the EU club was based originally around speaking French, as the main or second language. It based itself in Brussels, as a neutral and central point of the then EEC.

***could / because / many / as well as / that / what / those / also***

Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe? – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017



**GAP FILL: LISTENING**

**WRITING/SPELLING**

**Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?**

Last week, the President of the European Union, Jean Claude Juncker, said English is \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe. He made the remark, at a meeting of European diplomats and experts in Florence, Italy. Is it true?

Juncker said, "\_\_\_\_\_, English is losing importance in Europe. The French will have elections on Sunday, and I would like them to understand what I am saying." He then switched into French for the rest of his speech. \_\_\_\_\_ have been done to please the French voters ahead of the election, it is a fair point he raises, and to debate now.

When the UK leaves the EU, it will leave Ireland and Malta in the \_\_\_\_\_. The French, Belgians, and Luxembourgers, can then revert to speaking French. That leaves the Germans, who are the dominant members of the EU. Yes, but what about the other members of the EU, \_\_\_\_\_ east and central Europe, as well as the Scandinavian and \_\_\_\_\_ countries.

What is the most common language spoken by everyone? It's English, of course. Why? Because of history, the British Empire, and now America. Today, it is the second language many people want to learn. It is \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. It is also the language used in IT programming.

\_\_\_\_\_ leaving the EU, perhaps English won't be needed? Could language be the new EU tool of control? After all, the EU club was based originally around speaking French, as the main or second language. It based itself in Brussels, as a \_\_\_\_\_ point of the then EEC. From a \_\_\_\_\_ of view, perhaps the EU should move itself to Vienna, in Austria? The city has a far more central position in Europe.

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**WRITING / SPEAKING**

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list **20 different reasons why English is useful as a second language**. Talk briefly about each of them. *Five minutes*.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

1) English \_\_\_\_\_

2) I think \_\_\_\_\_

3) French \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Juncker: English is losing its importance in Europe. Is it true?**

**SPELLING**

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) importance
- 2) debate
- 3) common
- 4) language
- 5) Scandinavian
- 6) business
- 7) could
- 8) control
- 9) Brussels
- 10) perhaps

**SPELLING**

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) geographical
- 12) should
- 13) position
- 14) upset
- 15) fair
- 16) especially
- 17) revert
- 18) dominant
- 19) those
- 20) originally