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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/10/13

Why you need to speak more than one language!

Today, let's focus on ***why you need to speak more than one language in the world today.***

**The first part of the discussion** focuses on the negative attitude and ignorance of many British people in Britain when it comes to speaking a second or third language. Frankly, most can't communicate in another language. Most Brits can only speak English, as 'English is the business language of the world so we don't need to speak any other language except English!' Whilst this argument is understandable when it comes to getting a job, be it in the UK or abroad, many companies now require people who speak more than just English. Example: Two people go for a job. One is English; the other is from a non-English-speaking-country who speaks good English. When the English person doesn't get the job only then does it dawn on him/her that perhaps they needed to study an additional language! Unfortunately the British educational system continues to fail most students in pushing them to learn additional languages so they can communicate effectively in future jobs.

**The second part of the discussion** is focussed on students learning a second or third language outside the UK in a non-English-speaking-country. Here students know that if they want a good job they will need a second language, possibly a third. English is normally top of the list of chosen languages to learn but it could be German, French, Spanish, Russian or Chinese. Why? Because students going for a job interview will stand a better chance of getting a good job with better money if they know a second or third language. Companies automatically now require people with language skills who can communicate effectively in several languages.

## SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about learning another language. 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) Name the languages.
- 2) What does 'ignorance' mean?
- 3) What does 'attitude' mean?
- 4) What is the first part of the discussion about?
- 5) What does 'frankly' mean?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do companies automatically expect?
- 2) Who fails whom?
- 3) Sum up the example.
- 4) Most Brits can only speak English because... Finish the sentence.
- 5) What is the second part of the discussion about?

**Category: Education / Languages / Business**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

Why you need to speak more than one language! – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### **SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1 – INTERVIEW 1**

*In fours - You are at a job interview in your country i.e. NOT England – The advertised job is in a non-English-speaking-country (It could be yours) with a top international company!*

One of you is English and only speaks English. One of you is English and speaks two languages. The third person is from a non-English-speaking-country and speaks three-four languages including fluent English. The fourth person is an international employer who needs to hire someone who speaks English and either your language or Spanish/French/German. Who will be hired? 5-10 mins.

### **WRITING / SPEAKING**

**1)** *In pairs* – Think of three reasons to learn English. Then add three reasons to learn another language on top of your own. Talk about them!

**2)** Add three advantages and disadvantages of speaking a second or third language. Discuss together.

*The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.*

### **SPEAKING – DISCUSSION**

*As a class/pairs/small groups* – Compare the first and second parts of the article.

*The teacher will choose some students to hear their discussion in front of the class.*

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Student A questions**

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What languages do you speak? Why?
- 3) What is the most important language in the world? Why?
- 4) What language would you like to learn next?
- 5) What language don't you like to speak?
- 6) What languages were you forced to learn at school?
- 7) What languages will be important in the future?
- 8) Why are foreign languages so 'unimportant' in the British educational system?
- 9) Have you learnt anything today?

### **SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2 – INTERVIEW 2**

*In fours - You are at a job interview in England – The advertised job is in England with a top international company!*

One of you is English and only speaks English. One of you is English and speaks two languages. The third person is from a non-English-speaking-country and speaks three-four languages including fluent English. The fourth person is an international employer in England who needs to hire someone who speaks English and either Chinese/German/Russian. Who will be hired? 5-10 mins.

### **SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3**

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC Vienna* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Why you need to speak more than one language!*

- 1) An English person who only speaks English.
- 2) An English person who speaks two languages.
- 3) Someone from a non-English speaking country who speaks three languages fluently including English.
- 4) Human Resources boss of an international company.

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

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Student B questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) How important is speaking a second language in a job interview?
- 3) Why are English speaking jobs moving to some non-English speaking countries?
- 4) Do you need English in your job?
- 5) How often do you speak English?
- 6) What are employers looking for today when they interview someone?
- 7) What advice would you give anyone going to a job interview?
- 8) Why are the British generally lazy when it comes to speaking a second language, for example, down the pub?

## GAP FILL: READING

### Why you need to speak more than one language!

Today, let's focus on **why you need to speak more than one language in the world today**.

**The first part of the discussion** focuses on the (1)\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_ and (3)\_\_\_ of many British people in Britain when it comes to speaking a second or third language. (4)\_\_\_, most can't communicate in another language. Most Brits can only speak English, as 'English is the business language of the world so we don't need to speak any other language (5)\_\_\_ English!' Whilst this (6)\_\_\_ is understandable when it comes to getting a job, be it in the UK or abroad, many companies now require people who speak more than just English. Example: Two people go for a job. One is English; the other is from a non-English-speaking-country who speaks good English. When the English person doesn't get the job only then does it (7)\_\_\_ him/her that perhaps they needed to study an (8)\_\_\_ language!

**additional / argument / negative / frankly / ignorance / dawn on / except / attitude**

(1)\_\_\_ the British educational system continues to (2)\_\_\_ most students in pushing them to learn additional languages so they can communicate effectively in (3)\_\_\_ jobs.

**The second part of the (4)\_\_\_** is focussed on students learning a second or third language outside the UK in a non-English-speaking-country. Here students know that if they want a good job they will need a second language, (5)\_\_\_ a third. English is normally top of the list of chosen languages to learn but it could be German, French, Spanish, Russian or Chinese. Why? Because students going for a job interview will stand a better chance of getting a good job with better money if they know a second or third (6)\_\_\_ . Companies (7)\_\_\_ now require people with language skills who can communicate (8)\_\_\_ in several languages.

**future / automatically / language / effectively / unfortunately / discussion / / fail / possibly**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### Why you need to speak more than one language!

Today, let's focus on **why you need to speak (1)\_\_\_ than one language in the world today**.

**The first part of the discussion** focuses on the negative attitude and ignorance of (2)\_\_\_ British people in Britain when it comes to speaking a second or third language. Frankly, most can't communicate in another language. Most Brits can only speak English, as 'English is the business language of the world so we don't need to speak any (3)\_\_\_ language except English!' (4)\_\_\_ this argument is understandable (5)\_\_\_ it comes to getting a job, be it in the UK or abroad, many companies now require people who speak more than just English. Example: Two people go for a job. One is English; the other is from a non-English-speaking-country who speaks good English. When the English person doesn't get the job (6)\_\_\_ (7)\_\_\_ does it dawn on him/her that perhaps (8)\_\_\_ needed to study an additional language!

**then / more / many / when / whilst / they / only / other**

Unfortunately the British educational system continues to fail most students in pushing them to learn additional languages (1)\_\_\_ they can communicate effectively in future jobs.

**The second part of the discussion** is focussed (2)\_\_\_ students learning a second or third language outside the UK in a non-English-speaking-country. Here students know that if they want a good job they will need a second language, possibly a third. English is normally top of the list (3)\_\_\_ chosen languages to learn but (4)\_\_\_ could be German, French, Spanish, Russian or Chinese. Why? Because students going for a job interview will stand a better chance of getting a good job with better money (5)\_\_\_ they know a second (6)\_\_\_ third language. Companies automatically now require people with language skills (7)\_\_\_ can communicate effectively (8)\_\_\_ several languages.

**in / of / if / on / so / it / or / who**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Why you need to speak more than one language!

Today, let's focus on \_\_\_\_\_  
**more than one language in the world today.**

**The first** \_\_\_\_\_ focuses on the negative attitude and ignorance of many British people in Britain when it comes to speaking a second \_\_\_\_\_. Frankly, most can't communicate in another language. Most Brits can only speak English, as 'English is the business language of the world so we don't need to speak any other language except English!' \_\_\_\_\_ is understandable when it comes to getting a job, be it in the UK or abroad, many companies now require people who speak more than just English. Example: Two \_\_\_\_\_. One is English; the other is from a non-English-speaking-country who speaks good English. When the English person doesn't get the job only then does it dawn on him/her that perhaps they needed to study an additional language!

Unfortunately the \_\_\_\_\_ system continues to fail most students in pushing them to learn \_\_\_\_\_ so they can communicate effectively in future jobs.

**The second part of the discussion** is focussed on students learning a \_\_\_\_\_ outside the UK in a non-English-speaking-country. Here students know that if they want a good job they will need a second language, possibly a third. English is normally top of the list of chosen languages to learn but it could be German, French, Spanish, Russian or Chinese. Why? Because students going for a job interview will stand a better chance of getting a good job with better money if they know a second or third language. \_\_\_\_\_ now require people with language skills who can communicate effectively \_\_\_\_\_.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) In pairs.** On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Learning another language**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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

- 1) Speaking \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) English \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Students \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes - As a class.*

*Discuss the following...*

Why you need to speak more than one language!

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Why you need to speak more than one language!** Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) negative
- 2) attitude
- 3) ignorance
- 4) frankly
- 5) except
- 6) argument
- 7) dawn
- 8) additional

### ANSWERS

- 1) unfortunately
- 2) fail
- 3) future
- 4) discussion
- 5) possibly
- 6) language
- 7) automatically
- 8) effectively

### SPELLING

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

- 1) unfortunately
- 2) system
- 3) fail
- 4) additional
- 5) communicate
- 6) effectively
- 7) future
- 8) discussion
- 9) language
- 10) possibly

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) normally
- 12) because
- 13) automatically
- 14) several
- 15) negative
- 16) attitude
- 17) ignorance
- 18) frankly
- 19) except
- 20) dawn

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