# Unit 1 Speaking English

#### **1.1 1 Listening: Why to learn languages**

You are going to listen to an interview with a teenager who talks about the benefits of learning languages. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–5. Put a 🗷 in the correct box. The first one (0) has been done for you.

**0** Why did Sarah’s family leave the United States?

a) Because her family spent too much money. 🞏

b) Because Sarah didn’t like it there. 🞏

c) Because her smaller brother was born. 🞏

d) Because of her father’s work. 🗷

**Q1** Which language has Sarah just started to learn?

a) Czech 🞏

b) French 🞏

c) Hungarian 🞏

d) Spanish 🞏

**Q2** Why does Sarah think it is important to study languages?

a) Because you can’t surf the internet if you don’t know many languages. 🞏

b) Because it is easier to watch TV or read magazines from other countries. 🞏

c) Because Sarah doesn’t like the TV shows of her home country. 🞏

d) Because you can impress your friends with all the knowledge you have got. 🞏

**Q3** Where does Sarah meet people she can ask about their lives?

a) on the internet 🞏

b) in discussion clubs 🞏

c) on holiday 🞏

d) at school 🞏

**Q4** How do foreign languages help you when travelling?

a) Many people don’t like tourists who don’t speak their language. 🞏

b) It is easier to read a map to find out how to get somewhere. 🞏

c) Often you have to pay less when eating in a restaurant. 🞏

d) You can get help easily, especially in dangerous situations. 🞏

**Q5** Why is improving languages a good investment in your future career?

a) Because for most of the good jobs you have to move to another country. 🞏

b) Because many international companies want people who speak two or  
three languages. 🞏

c) Because it is easier to start your own company if you speak a second or  
third language. 🞏

d) Because people who can speak few languages earn more money. 🞏

#### **2 Reading: Why it is so important to learn English**

Read the text below, then decide whether the statements (1–6) are true (T) or false (F). Put a  in the correct box and justify your answer by quoting the first four words of the sentence in which you found the information. The first one (0) has been done for you.

*English is regarded as the international language. You can meet people who can speak English across the whole world. Some speak English fluently, others know only a few words. But many have at least an idea of English. To me, it’s quite clear why English is so important and why many people want to learn it.*

**Find out more about the world around you**

First, everything seems to be written in English. A lot of the information shared on the internet is published in this language. I’m very interested in baseball, for example, which is really popular in the US. So I must work hard to know English well to understand all the interesting websites and to communicate with other baseball fans online. 

Apart from that, a great number of books are only available in English. If you want to gain some knowledge, to learn something new or simply to read an exciting story, you need to understand English. Because English is an international language, many books are translated into English so that people from all over the world can read and enjoy books which they could not understand otherwise.

**Be interesting for a company – find the job you want!**

It is not easy to find a job nowadays. There are too many people who want to get one of the few jobs. Every boss is on the lookout for qualified, talented and smart employees. And they must be fluent in English.

English is very important for finding a job because people need an international language especially when they want to do business with other countries. People who don’t know English can only deal with companies from their own country and that is often simply not enough.

Nowadays, you can’t get a good job or a promotion without knowing proper English.

**Communicate with anyone on this planet**

How do we communicate with other people in foreign countries who do not speak our mother tongue? We often try English because many people know at least a little English. It won’t be easy to get in touch with people from other countries all the time, though, and sometimes there might be misunderstandings. But if you try hard enough, in the end you will mostly be able to let others know what you think.

**Travel the world**

English is very important for tourism, too, because it’s easy to communicate with visitors. Just imagine about how hard it would be to travel to other countries if the guides and the tourists didn’t know at least some English.

I went to Sri Lanka once and I needed medical help. Without the English language I couldn’t have told the doctors about my problem and they couldn’t have given me the right medicine. It was great to find so many people in Sri Lanka who can speak English.

I am really curious if English will still be as important in fifty or sixty years as today – maybe another language will have become the international language that everybody needs to speak then. But there is no doubt for me that at least today it’s still English that plays a major role in our lives.

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|  | **Statements** | **T** | **F** | **Justification** |
| **0** | All over the world, people speak English fluently. |  | 🗶 | Some speak English fluently |
| **Q1** | The author of the text likes meeting other sports fans on the internet. |  |  |  |
| **Q2** | If you don’t understand a book written in another language, there might be an English translation. |  |  |  |
| **Q3** | Nowadays, there are enough jobs for everyone. |  |  |  |
| **Q4** | If you know English, you can do business with people from all over the world. |  |  |  |
| **Q5** | In Sri Lanka, it is difficult to find someone who speaks English. |  |  |  |
| **Q6** | The author of the text thinks in fifty years English will be as important as today. |  |  |  |

#### **3 Speaking: The ideal place to learn a language**

You and your friend want to improve your English in the holidays. Your parents promise to pay for a trip to the UK. There are two offers to choose from: a language school in a city and a language camp at the sea. Decide where you want to go and how to convince your parents it’s the right choice.

 

*Prepare and act out a discussion between you and your partner. In your discussion, you should:*

* *outline which place looks more attractive to you*
* *explain where you think you learn more and why*
* *prepare arguments you can put forward to convince your parents*

#### **4 Writing: A text for a website**

The parents of your best friend own a language school. They have asked you to write a **text** for the school’s website, in which you explain from a teenager’s point of view why young people should learn foreign languages.

*In your text, you should:*

* *explain why it is important to know foreign languages*
* *give an example from your own life*
* *recommend your favourite learning method(s)*

*Write a* ***text*** *of**about* ***200 words****. Give your text a* ***title****.*

#### **5 Language in use: How to learn a language 1**

You are going to read a text about tips for learning a language. Some forms are missing from the text. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1–9) in the text. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

There is no single method to learn a language that ... **(0)** for everybody. You should try out different ones and use the one that works for you, or a combination.

First, studying little and often is best. Usually, I ... **(Q1)** on my language skills for ten minutes every day. This is more effective and manageable than a longer session once a week. Mistakes are a part of the learning process. Just have a go and you’ll learn much more quickly. Most native speakers will see that you ... **(Q2)** an effort if you talk to them. Right now, I ... **(Q3)** a little Italian for the holidays and I’m looking forward to ordering a pizza in Italy.

Second, it’s a good idea to ... **(Q4)** to language-learning CDs or podcasts whenever you have the time, for example when travelling to school or back home. Apart from that, watch TV and online videos in the language you’re learning. At the moment, I ... **(Q5)** an Italian game show. I ... **(Q6)** much of it but it will help me to get used to how the language sounds and, with the help of the pictures, I’ll learn a few words and phrases.

Third, to remember words and phrases better, ... **(Q7)** them on post-it notes and stick them around the house. Say phone numbers out loud, make shopping and other lists or memorise orders in a bar or restaurant. You can also ... **(Q8)** a place where you can use the language you ... **(Q9)** – this will also keep you motivated.

Finally, go back every now and then to something you did earlier on. You will be surprised at how much you’ve learned.

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| **0** | **A** | working | **B** | works | **C** | is working | **D** | will working |
| **Q1** | **A** | am working | **B** | have worked | **C** | work | **D** | will be working |
| **Q2** | **A** | will be taking | **B** | takes | **C** | are taking | **D** | have taken |
| **Q3** | **A** | was studying | **B** | will study | **C** | study | **D** | am studying |
| **Q4** | **A** | listening | **B** | listen | **C** | have listened | **D** | listened |
| **Q5** | **A** | watch | **B** | watched | **C** | am watching | **D** | was watching |
| **Q6** | **A** | don’t understand | **B** | won’t understand | **C** | doesn’t understand | **D** | isn’t understanding |
| **Q7** | **A** | write | **B** | writing | **C** | have written | **D** | wrote |
| **Q8** | **A** | visited | **B** | are visiting | **C** | visit | **D** | visiting |
| **Q9** | **A** | learns | **B** | learning | **C** | learn | **D** | are learning |

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| **0** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q5** | **Q6** | **Q7** | **Q8** | **Q9** |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### **6 Language in use: How to learn a language 2**

You are going to read a text about tips for learning a language. Some forms are missing from the text. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1–9) in the text. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

There is no single method to learn a language that ... **(0)** for everybody. You should try out different ones and use the one that works for you, or a combination.

First, just ... **(Q1)** to the language you’re learning as much as possible without trying to speak it. This helps you to get to know how the language “sounds”. Listen to internet radio and podcasts as much as possible. Likewise, watch videos! Many TV stations offer news broadcasts and video clips that you can ... **(Q2)** for free. I ... **(Q3)** an episode of a Russian soap opera right now. I don’t understand a lot of it, but I like the way the actors speak.

Second, try to think in terms of phrases and not individual words. It’s easier to remember a phrase like “a breakfast of bread and butter” than it is to remember each word on its own. If you find it hard to remember a word or phrase, ... **(Q4)** flashcards or small notebooks to review them regularly. At the moment, I ... **(Q5)** a new app on my smartphone that helps me to study vocabulary. My friend ... **(Q6)** the app every day and he knows so many words!

Third, ... **(Q7)** more slowly and with more concentration than you would normally do. Later your speed will increase to a normal level. For language learners, there are bilingual books you can buy which ... **(Q8)** you understand the story because it’s there in your mother tongue as well. Some learners also like reading comics and cartoons in the language they ... **(Q9)**.

Finally, go back every now and then to something you did earlier on. You will be surprised at how much you’ve learned.

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| **0** | **A** | is working | **B** | works | **C** | will working | **D** | working |
| **Q1** | **A** | listen | **B** | listening | **C** | listened | **D** | are listening |
| **Q2** | **A** | downloaded | **B** | download | **C** | downloading | **D** | have downloaded |
| **Q3** | **A** | am watching | **B** | watch | **C** | was watching | **D** | watching |
| **Q4** | **A** | using | **B** | used | **C** | use | **D** | are using |
| **Q5** | **A** | am trying out | **B** | tried out | **C** | try out | **D** | will be trying out |
| **Q6** | **A** | is using | **B** | uses | **C** | using | **D** | use |
| **Q7** | **A** | reads | **B** | is reading | **C** | have read | **D** | read |
| **Q8** | **A** | are helping | **B** | helps | **C** | helping | **D** | help |
| **Q9** | **A** | learn | **B** | learning | **C** | are learning | **D** | learns |

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| **0** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q5** | **Q6** | **Q7** | **Q8** | **Q9** |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |