

Language

LESSON OBJECTIVE	In this lesson, students focus on some very different languages spoken around the world, and understand the importance of learning any other languages that may be spoken in their country.
LANGUAGE REFERENCE	Unit 3: <i>Brazil, make a mistake, practice, practise</i> ; Negative prefixes: <i>impossible, unusual</i> ; Expressing quantity: <i>a few, a lot of, any, many, some</i> ; Relative pronouns: <i>that, when, which, who</i> Unit 4: <i>cheek, increase, mouth, throat</i> ; Present perfect with <i>ever</i> and <i>never</i> and <i>for</i> and <i>since</i>

WARMER

Elicit the languages that students know are spoken in their country. Ask them if they can speak any of these languages, or know any people who can.

Suggested answers

Examples of languages spoken in the UK are Welsh and Gaelic.

- 1 In pairs, students look at the map and discuss the questions. Elicit answers from different pairs before continuing.

Answers

- 1 The two shaded places on the map are La Gomera in the Canary Islands and the country of South Africa.
Students' own answers
- 2 Students work alone or in pairs to write questions they'd like to know the answers to. Students then quickly read the text to see if it answers any of their questions from Question 2 in Exercise 1.

Suggested answers

How many people speak these languages?
What do they sound like?
Do children learn these languages at school?
What is so unusual about these languages?

Before reading the text again, write the words in the *Vocabulary focus* box on the board and ask students to find them in the text. Pre-teach some of the more complex words if necessary.

- 3 Students read the text again in detail and circle the correct answers.

Answers

1 S 2 B 3 S 4 X 5 B 6 X

- 4 Focus the students' attention on the numbers and ask them to scan the text to find the correct answers. They then write what each number refers to.

Answers

- 1 number of speakers of Xhosa in South Africa
- 2 a period of time
- 3 the number of click consonants in Xhosa
- 4 the number of different languages spoken worldwide
- 5 Malusi's age

If you have access to the Internet, it would be good to expose students to the Silbo and Xhosa languages for them to hear what they sound like. There are audio files on the Internet which show examples of the languages, for you and the class to listen to.

- 5 In pairs, students discuss the questions. With a less confident class, you could brainstorm ideas together first and write them on the board, as well as some key discourse markers to help structure their ideas: *The main advantage is ... , I think ... is important because ...*

Elicit answers from the class. Tell students that there are lots of advantages to being able to speak more than one language, e.g. it can help you in your career in the future, it improves your memory, etc.

?? DID YOU KNOW?

Direct the students' attention to the *Did you know?* box. Read the interesting fact about one of the rarest languages in the world.

PROJECT

- 1 In groups of four, students choose an unusual language from the list that they would like to find out more about.
- 2 Each student in the group chooses one of the aspects of the language to research and uses books or the Internet to gather as much information as possible. Encourage students to show photos or illustrations where possible to support their findings.
- 3 The group decides how to present their information to the rest of the class. Allow some time for class preparation and set deadlines for the presentations.