

## Language

*"To speak another language is to possess another soul" - Charlamagne*



### Warm up

- What do you think about the quote above?
- How many languages can you speak?
- Do you think it's important for people to learn more than one language? Why/Why not?
- Do you feel like you have a different personality in different languages?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a global language?
- Do you think our global economy could work without a global language?
- Do you think we will stop learning languages in the future and only use translation devices? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of doing this?
- Do you think most of the world will speak English in 100 years?
- If you could speak any other language which language would you choose?



1. The phrases all translate to 'I love you' in English. Match the languages below to the correct phrase

Portuguese  
Bulgarian  
Italian

Greek  
Danish  
Indonesian

Japanese  
Punjabi  
Thai

Dutch  
Finnish  
Turkish

Phrase	Language
1. Обичам те	
2. Jeg elsker dig	
3. Σ' αγαπώ	
4. 愛してます	
5. Ik hou van je	
6. Rakastan sinua	
7. ฉันรักคุณ	
8. Eu amo-te	
9. Ti amo	
10. aku mencintaimu	
11. ਮੈਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਪਿਆਰ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ	
12. Seni seviyorum	



2. Work in pairs or groups and answer the questions below. The group with the most correct answers wins.

1. Include both non-native and native, which language has the most speakers in the world?
  - a. English
  - b. Mandarin
  - c. Hindi
2. How many official languages are there in Switzerland?
  - a. 2
  - b. 3
  - c. 4
3. Dating back at least 3500 BC, the oldest proof of a written language was Sumerian which was found in today's...
  - a. Iraq
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Egypt
4. How many official languages are there in the European Union?
  - a. 15
  - b. 24
  - c. 42
5. Which is the most translated book after the Bible?
  - a. The Little Prince
  - b. Harry Potter
  - c. Lord of the Rings
6. What was the first language spoken in outer space?
  - a. Russian
  - b. English
  - c. Chinese
7. How many words for rain are there in Hawaiian?
  - a. Over 10
  - b. Over 50
  - c. Over 200
8. Which language is spoken in Brazil?
  - a. Portuguese
  - b. French
  - c. Spanish
9. What was Cleopatra's first Language?
  - a. Latin
  - b. Arabic
  - c. Greek
10. "Cerveza" means beer in which country?
  - a. Spain
  - b. Italy
  - c. Brazil



3. You are going to watch a video called “How Language Shapes the Way We Think”. Work in a group or with a partner and discuss the following questions before watching the video.

- What are some differences between English and your native language?
- Does your language use genders for nouns (for example in French the moon is female *la lune* and a hat is masculine *le chapeau*)? If so, do you think that has any effect on how you see the noun?
- What do you think this quote means?

*“What’s in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” - Shakespeare*



4. The vocabulary below is used in the video you are going to watch. Match the vocabulary on the left to their definitions on the right.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. to transmit              | a. to know where you are in terms of location                 |
| 2. to exhale                | b. when something is suggested and not directly said          |
| 3. oriented                 | c. When someone recalls a crime they have seen in court       |
| 4. a trick                  | d. to move/pass something from one place to another           |
| 5. a quirk                  | e. an unusual trait/feature                                   |
| 6. an implication           | f. a way of doing something to make it easier                 |
| 7. an eye witness testimony | g. to think only of oneself and ignore the feelings of others |
| 8. egocentric               | h. to breathe out   |



5. Watch the first 5m40s of the video and answer the following questions with your class.

- What unusual idea did Lera Boroditsky transmit to your mind?
- How do the Kuuk Thaayore people describe where things are?
- How do the Kuuk Thaayore people greet each other?
- English speaking people lay out timelines from left to right. Hebrew or Arabic people lay out time scales from right to left. Why?
- How do the Kuuk Thaayore people lay out timelines?

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKK7wGAYP6k&t=6s&ab\\_channel=TED](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKK7wGAYP6k&t=6s&ab_channel=TED)



6. Watch up to 10m 43s of the [video](#) and answer the following questions.

1. What does Lera Boroditsky refer to as a language trick?
2. How do languages differ in how they divide their colour spectrum ?
3. Boroditsky discusses 'language quirks' and refers to lots of languages having grammatical genders. What differences did their study between German and Spanish participants show?
4. What differences were found between English and Spanish speakers in describing an accident?
5. Boroditsky refers to how the results found in question 4 have implications on eye witness testimony. How so?



7. [Optional task: Watch the rest of the video at home.](#)



8. [Discuss the following with a partner or in a group.](#)

- a. What part of the video did you find most interesting or surprising?
- b. Do you think it is important for us to safeguard different languages?
- c. Has the video changed your mind on the importance of learning a second language? Do you think being bilingual is a huge advantage?
- d. Do you agree with Lera Boroditsky? Do you think language shapes us?
- e. What did you think of Lera Boroditsky and how she delivered her presentation? Do you think she had a good or a bad delivery? How does she keep her audience's attention ? What did you think about her tone?



9. [Play the 'Guess the Country' game, your teacher will provide you with the necessary material.](#)