

Lesson 20. Multilingualism

Learning Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Discover and categorize the multiple languages spoken by the people in Toronto based on two major continents.
- Describe the concept of multilingualism.
- Argue whether monolingualism is the illiteracy of the 21st century using provided prompts.
- Recognize the use of certain vocabularies from a recording using context clues.
- Interpret and explain the content of infographics.
- Explore how speaking more than two languages benefits the speaker.
- Infer relevant information from the provided text.
- Analyze and discuss some multilingual word puns.
- Identify and correct the error found in each sentence.

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What Language Do You Speak?

1. How many languages do you speak?
2. Share how you have been learning foreign languages. Is it through movies/songs/language courses, how?
3. Would you like to learn another foreign language? What would it be? Provide reasons.
4. Watch this following clip and complete the table below.
[What language do you speak? | Easy English 34 – YouTube](#)
5. In summation, would you say that the interviewed people in the video are multilingual?

Complete The Following Table

Name all European languages mentioned in the video	Name all Asian languages mentioned in the video	Reasons why/how the people in the video learn/speak another languages
?	?	?

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In a nutshell

Multilingualism is the use of more than one language, either by an individual speaker or by a group of speakers. It is believed that multilingual speakers outnumber monolingual speakers in the world's population. Multilingualism is advantageous for people wanting to participate in globalization and cultural openness. Owing to the ease of access to information facilitated by the Internet, individuals' exposure to multiple languages is becoming increasingly possible. People who speak several languages are also called polyglots. Multilingual speakers have acquired and maintained at least one language during childhood, the so-called first language (L1). The first language (sometimes also referred to as the mother tongue) is usually acquired without formal education. Children acquiring two languages natively from these early years are called simultaneous bilinguals.

It is common for young simultaneous bilinguals to be more proficient in one language than the other.

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own”
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Ponder the quote and try analyzing what does knowledge of another language have to do with the mastery of our native language?

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Debate: Is Monolingualism the Illiteracy of the 21st Century?

Points to consider:

- What illiteracy actually means and what it means in this given context.
- What illiterate literally means.
- How much being a monolingual inhibits one's growth/opportunities.
- How diverse are the languages spoken in one's community/circle?
- How demanding is being multilingual in one's line of work/in one's field?
- The relevant skillset required in the 21st century.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_illiteracy

<https://medium.com/@TransparentLanguage/is-monolingualism-the-illiteracy-of-the-21st-century-274b4899a5b1>

<https://belgrade.impacthub.net/illiterate-in-the-21st-century-are-those-who-don-t-know-how-to-learn/?lang=en>

<https://ruskiymir.ru/en/publications/195188/>

<https://www.c-sail.org/resources/blog/bilingualism-21st-century-skill-so-why-are-21st-century-standards-ignoring-it>

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Keen Listening

Look for the following vocabulary in the recording. Define each vocabulary if you are familiar with it. While listening, jot down how each vocabulary is employed and related to the presented topic.

**Admissions
Director**

swiftly

impassioned

**deductive
reasoning skill**

curfew

dedramatize

chimed in on

**stuff one's
mouth**

**language
acquisition**

**a period of
functional plasticity**

lateralize

lumped into

heartening

**Identify which part of the speech
each vocabulary is.**

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Listening 20.1

Listen to the recording carefully and answer these questions below.

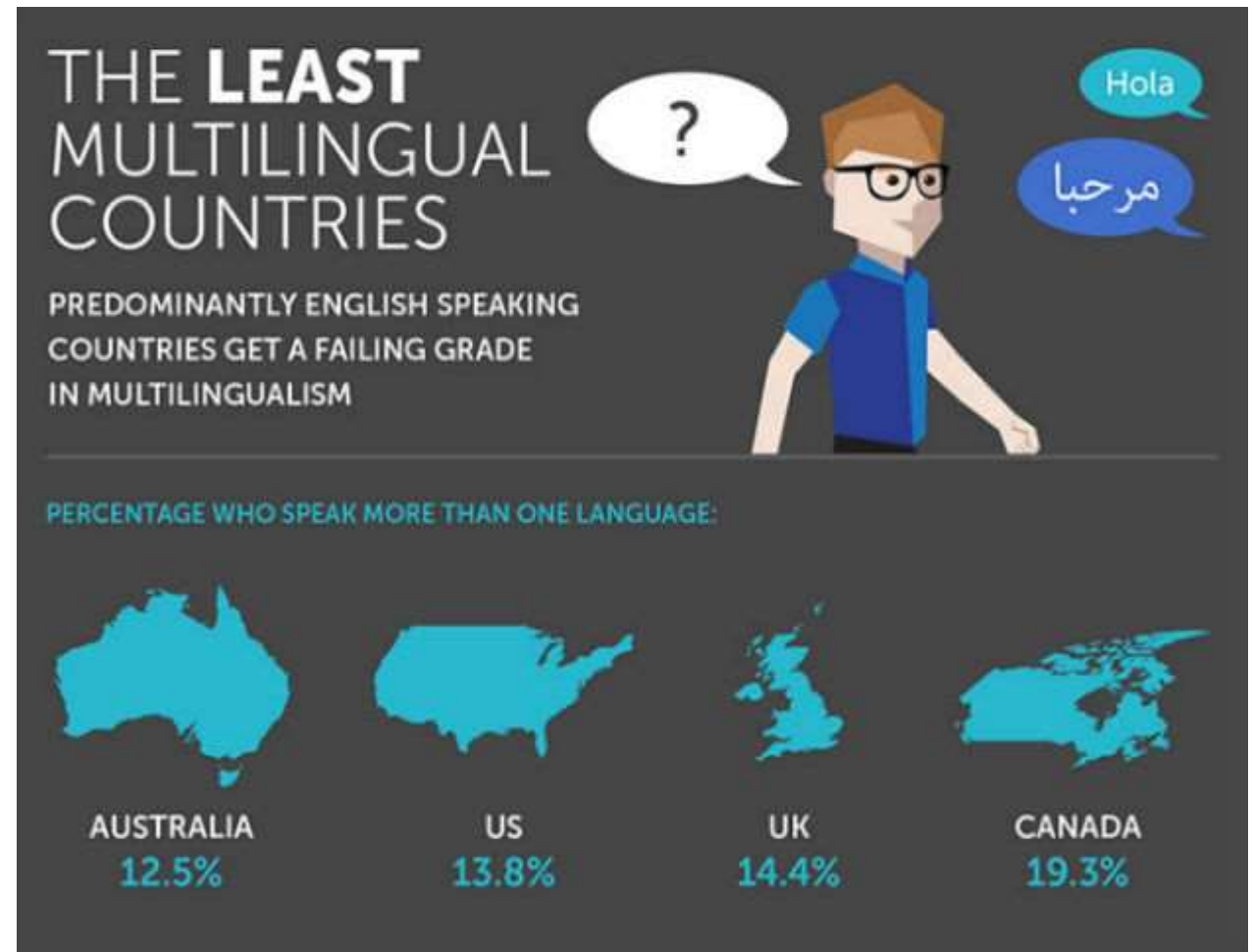
[Citizens of the World: The Multilingual Child and Adult: Dr. Edwin Gerard at TEDxCulverCity](#)

Citizens of the World: The Multilingual Child and Adult

1. How many languages does the speaker speak? Detail how the speaker knows/speaks those languages.
2. Name the countries where the speaker has ever taught in.
3. What did the speaker use to do when he wanted to avoid being scolded by his father?
4. **True** or **False**: The French people are very detailed and expressive when describing their physical pain.
5. What does the age of 12 have to do with language learning?
6. According to the speaker, why did some of the English teachers working with him in Tunisia erect some sort of barricade in their apartment?

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Study and discuss the graphs below



Reference: <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/effective-advertisements>

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Speaking only one language is common in many countries, but have we been looking at languages the wrong way all along? Multilingualism promotes mental health and opens doors to the world that otherwise might not have been available. **Gone are the days** where it's completely normal to speak only one language. Modern workplaces want more languages spoken in the office, and not just because it's good for business. Even if you start learning a new language as an adult, multilingualism exercises your brain, improving your health and quality of life from the first years of school to retirement age. Very few regions of the world are **resolutely monolingual** any longer; indeed, estimates suggest that a majority of the world's population is at least bilingual. There is one **glaring exception**, however: the English-speaking world. As the **world's lingua franca**, native English-speaking families tend not to stress **the importance of building up a linguistic toolbox**; after all, everyone learns a little bit of English anyway, right? The irony is that these English-speaking areas are, for a variety of reasons, becoming increasingly diverse to the point where speaking multiple languages and understanding other cultures is a tremendous asset. When most people think of multilingualism in action, they often think of countries like Belgium, Canada, or Switzerland. In these countries, there are **well-established linguistic communities** that tend to live parallel to one another. A mixture of student ambition and educational standards means at least part of the populace can converse with someone from another language community. But in much of the rest of the world, bilingualism is commonplace; people communicate with one another by fusing together multiple languages. English words often pepper sentences in Nairobi or Delhi, emphasizing ideas with more clarity than the other language might. Every language has its strengths and weaknesses when it comes to getting a point across; that means the multilingual has the vocabulary to best express themselves. Being able to speak multiple languages is, first and foremost, a great way to promote long-term brain health. Just like working out cascades all sorts of positive effects onto your body's health, your brain is also a muscle that needs exercise in order to function at its full potential. There is emerging scientific evidence that being bilingual or multilingual actually delays the onset of dementia or even prevents it altogether. Multilingualism also improves working memory, meaning that the brain's capacity to remember things on a short-term basis gets a boost. Putting your brain to work by regularly communicating in more than one language isn't just beneficial for living abroad or traveling somewhere; it's also a boon for your mental health over the long-term. Multilingualism also offers **cognitive benefits in everyday life**. Speaking multiple languages can aid in resolving conflicts, multitasking, or even understanding the perspectives of others. If multilingualism improves a person's memory, then it's unsurprising that multilingual kids can perform better at school. There's an increasing amount of research that suggests bilingual children are better at recalling items from their memory and even do better at math than monolingual students.

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Most children go to a school with a curriculum that uses memorization as a learning method; having a brain that's already **pre-conditioned** to memorization is a huge boon when it comes to studying for exams. Outside the classroom, multilingual kids have a bigger linguistic toolbox for interacting with the world around them. Speaking more than one language opens doors to new friendships, new cultures, and new life opportunities that they might not otherwise get as a monolingual. If a child speaks a different language at school than at home, they'll develop their own special connection to the family's adopted home (though, it's possible that siblings might prefer not to speak your native tongue). Moving to a new country where your child speaks a local language? You'll worry less knowing your child will probably adjust a lot easier than you will. The clearest advantage of multilingualism as an adult is in **the realm of employment**. Every language you speak is key to unlocking more professional opportunities. Historically popular languages to learn like French and Spanish open the door to regions all over the world, while increasingly **en vogue languages** like Arabic and Mandarin are crucial tools for tapping into emerging markets. Speaking a language isn't just a tool for communication, though; languages give the speaker an insight into entire cultures. Recruiters want multilingual staff because they improve the chances for success in a globalized marketplace. Multilingualism makes finding work all the more exciting because you aren't restricted to looking at jobs only in your home country. A subtler advantage lies in cultural understanding. Workplaces (especially ones that actively recruit expats) are increasingly diverse; that means staff comes from a wide variety of backgrounds. Multicultural office environments are rewarding places to work in, but a poorly-managed multicultural group can be prone to conflict. Cultures have **differing conversation styles**, learning methods, and approaches to everything from collaborative work to **office banter**; it's no surprise that **language is a proxy for these differences**. Even if you don't speak the same language, **multilingualism heightens your sensitivity towards the cultural lens** that a colleague uses to interpret the world. Outside of the office, multilingualism improves your overall communication skills. Knowing one language provides the building blocks for understanding a language within the same family; think of the similarities between Spanish and Portuguese or Russian and Ukrainian. That's incredibly helpful when you're trying to help someone that speaks another language find just the right word in English. The ability to bridge between languages makes it easier to travel somewhere new or to integrate into a new country as an expat.

Source: <https://www.expatica.com/education/language-learning/multilingualism-108148/>

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. According to the passage, why are the majority of English speaking countries monolingual?
2. Explain the kind of language usually spoken in Nairobi or Delhi.
3. How beneficial can being multilingual be to our brain health and cognitive skills?
4. **True** or **False**: Being multilingual comes with a lot of perks.
5. Infer what languages are of most use in conducting businesses.
6. What do Spanish – Portuguese and Russian - Ukrainian have in common? How does speaking any of those languages might help bridge the differences between languages?

VOCABULARY

1. to add to something in many places.
 2. a language used for communication between groups of people who speak different languages.
 3. to exchange thoughts and opinions in speech ; to have a conversation.
 4. a function/something that acts as a substitute for another.
 5. in an admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering manner.
 6. playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks.
 7. to help.
 8. (of something bad) very obvious.
 9. something good or very helpful.
 10. to occur in a sequence or successive stages.
 11. a person who lives in a foreign country.
 12. the moment at which something unpleasant begins.
- a. resolutely
 - b. glaring
 - c. lingua franca
 - d. converse
 - e. pepper
 - f. cascade
 - g. onset
 - h. boon
 - i. aid
 - j. banter
 - k. proxy
 - l. expatriate (expat)

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Multilingual Jokes

How multilingual are you? It's time to put your multilingualism sense to test. Observe these following jokes, ponder, estimate and discuss what each joke could possibly mean. Pay attention to the clues provided for every joke.

Why do French people prefer to have small breakfasts?

Because one egg is *un oeuf*!

Clues:

Google translate what the French word means in English and what the French pronunciation rhymes with in English

My grandmother brought over a German fruit cake called *Stollen*.

Grandma : I don't know if it'll taste good this year, I didn't make it.

Dad : You didn't make it? Does that mean it's... stolen?

Clues:

Pronunciation of the German word and conclude what it rhymes with in English

A Greek playwright entered a tailor shop. The tailor asked him, "*Euripides*?" The tragedian responded, "Yes, *Eumenides*?"

Clues:

Pronounce the Greek words and conclude what it rhymes with in English

No matter how kind you are, German children are *Kinder*

Clues:

Google translate what the German word means in English and how it's pronounced in English

A Spanish magician told everyone he would disappear.

He said, 'Uno, dos....'

Then disappeared without a *tres*.

Clues:

Google translate what the Spanish word means in English, how it's pronounced in Spanish and what it rhymes with in English

French people are so hardcore they eat "*pain*" for breakfast.

Clues:

Google translate what the French word means in English and how the French word is pronounced in English

**How do you find the jokes above?
Did you at least chuckle?**

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Identify the error in each sentence and correct it.

1. The amount of languages spoken in a region differs greatly. For example, Europe as a region features less language than
many equivalent sized regions in Asia or Africa.

A B C D
2. Being multilingual is the norm for most individuals in the world and this will increasingly the case.

A B C D
3. The amount of speakers of a language differs if we also count those learning the language as a foreign language (i.e. through a school).

A B C D
4. A multilingual may either acquire his/her languages together from infant or may acquire them sequentially at different ages.

A B C D
5. Exposure to more than one language in the early years does not cause confusion for young children and in the fact reach
language milestones in a similar timeframe to those of children who learn only one language.

A B C D
6. Some multilinguals use code-switching, which involves swap between languages.

A B C D

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7. Research suggests we may be predisposed to speak more than one language and that doing so brings health benefits,
such as delay the onset of dementia
- A B C D
8. When individuals put down more than one language in the language section of an application,
they become much more employed since they can communicate with so many more customers who do not speak English.
- A B C D
9. A study performed in 2004 found out that that who speak more than two languages have higher cognitive thinking abilities.
- A B C D
10. A study in Switzerland has found that multilingualism is positive correlated with an individual's salary and the productivity of firms.
- A B C D
11. According to a study out of Spain's University of Pompeu Fabra, multilingual people are better in observing their
surroundings.
- A B C D

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Express Yourself:

1. What languages are mostly spoken in your country?
2. How many official languages does your country have?
3. Does your language have words adopted from another foreign languages? Give examples.
4. What do you think is the relationship between multilingualism, diversity, and identity?
5. Do you know anyone who is bilingual or multilingual?
6. Do you think the language that you speak affects the way you think?
7. Do you think multilinguals dream in different languages?
8. How many languages can you say “hello” in? Give examples.
9. How many languages can you say “thank you” in? Give examples.
10. Do you also agree that being a multilingual brings along as many benefits as many research claim it has? Or would you say that being a multilingual is actually over-glorified and not as advantageous as it sounds? Support your argument.

THE END