

a Is English important for these jobs in your town / city? Write 1–5 in the boxes (1 = English is not important, 5 = English is very important).

a waiter  a doctor  a taxi driver  a policeman  a teacher  a lawyer

b Read the text. Then answer the questions.

- 1 What do the banker, the waiter, and the factory worker have in common?
- 2 What does Jean-Paul do?
- 3 Where does he work?
- 4 What languages does he speak?
- 5 What language does he speak at work? Is this a problem for him?

## English at work

What do these people have in common – a banker in Mexico City, a waiter in a five-star hotel in Moscow, and a worker in the Hitachi electronics factory in Tokyo? They all speak English at work. Today, English is the common language in **multinational companies** in countries from France to Singapore.

Jean-Paul Piat works for an IT company in Paris. Every day he has **meetings** with other **managers** in English. He also reads **documents** and writes emails in English, and **speaks on the phone** in English to offices in other countries.

‘We’re a multinational company with offices **all over the world**,’ says Jean-Paul. ‘We also have some people in our Paris office who aren’t French. We need a common language to communicate, and that language is English. I think it is a good idea, but some people don’t like speaking English in a meeting when nearly everybody is French.’



- c Look at the highlighted words and phrases. Guess their meaning. Check with your teacher or a dictionary.
- d Is English important for your job?

### WORDS AND PHRASES TO LEARN

What do you do?

I'm a *doctor*.

Where do you work?

I work *in a hospital*.

I like it very much.

He speaks *English* very well.

only

speak on the phone

all over the world

### Ginny English & Art

Click here to see the answers!

