

Task 3

- Read this article about a language which is really two languages, and then read the sentences (14-20) following it.
- Mark a sentence A if it is true according to the article.
- Mark it B if it is false according to the article.
- Mark it C if there is not enough information in the text to decide if the sentence is true or not.
- Write your answers in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example (0).
- A = TRUE B = FALSE C = THE TEXT DOES NOT SAY

Male	English	Female
abu	dog	okwakwe
kitchi	tree	okweng
bamuie	water	amu
nko	cup	ogbala

UBANG: THE NIGERIAN VILLAGE WHERE MEN AND WOMEN SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

In Ubang, a farming community in southern Nigeria, men and women say they speak different languages. Wishing to demonstrate the two different languages, village chief Oliver Ibang calls over his two young children.

He holds up a cup and asks his daughter what it is called. "It's *ogbala*," she says, without thinking for a moment. But in Ubang's "male language" the word for cup is *nko*. There are some other examples, such as the word for clothing, which is *nki* for men and *ariga* for women.

It is not clear exactly how many words are different in the two languages. Also, there is no pattern, such as whether the words are commonly used or linked to traditional roles for men or women. There are a lot of words that men and women have in common, then there are others which are totally different depending on your sex. They don't sound alike, they don't have the same letters, they are completely different words. However, both men and women are able to understand each other as well as anywhere else in the world. This might be partly because boys grow up speaking the female language, as they spend most of their childhoods with their mothers and other women. However, by the age of 10, boys are expected to speak the "male language".

Ubang people are extremely proud of their language difference but there are different theories about how it happened. "God created Adam and Eve and they were Ubang people," says the chief. "God's plan was to give each ethnic group two languages, but after creating the two languages for the Ubang, he realised that he simply didn't have enough languages to hand out. So he stopped," he explains.

"That's why Ubang has the benefit of two languages – we are different from other people in the world."

(bbc.co.uk)

0) *There is a village where the language people speak depends on their sex.*

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14) The chief's daughter cannot immediately give the word for *cup*.

14)		
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15) Most of the words are the same in the male and the female language.

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16) There are more male than female words in Ubang.

16)		
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17) The male words are more difficult to pronounce than the female words.

17)		
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18) In Ubang, a man and a woman have no more problems understanding each other than, for example, a man and a woman in the UK.

18)		
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19) Boys learn the male language from their fathers.

19)		
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20) According to the chief, God gave two languages to every ethnic group in the world.

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