

P1U1. Further Reading 2

Paragraph 1:

Although we all possess the same physical organs for sensing the world- eyes for seeing, ears for hearing, noses for smelling, skin for feeling, and mouths for tasting our perception of the world depends to a great extent on the language we speak, according to a famous hypothesis proposed by linguists Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf. They hypothesized that language is like a pair of eyeglasses through which we "see" the world in a particular way. A classic example of the relationship between language and perception is the word snow. Eskimo languages have as many as 32 different words for snow. For instance, the Eskimos have different words for falling snow, snow on the ground, snow packed as hard as ice, slushy snow, wind-driven snow, and what we might call "cornmeal" snow. The ancient Aztec languages of Mexico, in contrast, used only one word to mean snow, cold, and ice. Thus, if the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is correct and we can perceive only things that we have words for, the Aztecs perceived snow, cold, and ice as one and the same phenomenon.

1) What is the MAIN IDEA of the passage?

- A) Our senses provide the only way we perceive the world.
- B) Different languages lead to different ways of understanding the world.
- C) The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is definitively proven.
- D) Eskimo languages are more complex than Aztec languages.

2) Which detail from the passage supports the idea that language shapes perception?

- A) We all have the same physical organs for sensing the world.
- B) Eskimo languages have multiple words for different types of snow.
- C) The Aztecs used one word for snow, cold, and ice.
- D) The passage mentions a "famous hypothesis."

3) The phrase "see" in the sentence "language is like a pair of eyeglasses through which we see the world" is used metaphorically to mean:

- A) Literally see with your eyes.
- B) Understand or perceive something.
- C) Focus on a specific detail.
- D) Ignore something completely.

4) According to the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, why might the Aztecs perceive snow, cold, and ice differently from the Eskimos?

- A) The Aztecs lived in a colder climate.
- B) The Eskimos have superior senses.
- C) The Aztec language had fewer words for these concepts.
- D) The passage doesn't provide enough information to answer.

5) Which of the following statements BEST reflects the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis?

- A) Language simply reflects how we already perceive the world.
- B) Our senses are more important than language in understanding the world.
- C) Language shapes how we categorize and understand the world around us
- D) Only languages with complex vocabulary allow for accurate perception.

Paragraph 2

You can be a good conversationalist by being a good listener. When you are conversing with someone, pay close attention to the speaker's words while looking at his or her face. Show your interest by smiling and nodding. Furthermore, do not interrupt while someone is speaking; it is impolite to do so. If you have a good story, wait until the speaker is finished. Also, watch your body language; it can affect your communication whether you are the speaker or the listener. For instance, do not sit slumped in a chair or make nervous hand and foot movements. Be relaxed and bend your body slightly forward to show interest in the person and the conversation.

1) What is the MAIN IDEA of the passage?

- A) Active listening is the key to successful conversations.
- B) It's important to share your own stories in conversation.
- C) Body language doesn't play a role in communication.
- D) Making eye contact is rude during a conversation.

2) According to the passage, why should you avoid interrupting the speaker?

- A) It shows you're not paying attention.
- B) It's impolite and disrespectful.
- C) You might miss important information.

3) Which of the following behaviors would be MOST helpful for a good conversationalist according to the passage?

- A) Crossing your arms and looking away from the speaker.
- B) Leaning in slightly, maintaining eye contact, and nodding.
- C) Fidgeting with your phone and making nervous gestures.
- D) Interrupting the speaker to share a similar story.

Paragraph 3:

Let's look at the advantages of moving abroad. One of the main positives of heading overseas is that it broadens your horizon. What I mean by this is that you have the chance to meet people from different cultural backgrounds and learn to cope with foreign customs and food. This can make you more rounded as a person. Secondly, moving abroad can lead to better quality of life. Take British people for example. Thousands of people from the UK move to Spain and Australia every year for better climates and work-life balance. In addition, by living overseas, you can gain qualifications and language skills, which may improve promotion prospects on your return.

1. What is the MAIN IDEA of the passage?

- A) Moving abroad is a difficult and risky decision.
- B) There are financial benefits to moving abroad.
- C) Living in another country can offer personal and professional advantages.
- D) The best climates for expats are Spain and Australia.

2. Which detail from the passage supports the idea of broadening your horizons?

- A) People move abroad for better weather.
- B) Living overseas can improve your job prospects.
- C) You get to meet people from different cultures.
- D) Learning a new language is expensive.

3. The phrase "broaden your horizon" most likely means:

- A) See a wider variety of landscapes.
- B) Gain new experiences and perspectives.
- C) Learn a new skill like cooking foreign food.
- D) Face challenges and overcome difficulties.

4. According to the passage, why might some British people choose to move to Spain or Australia?

- A) They want to learn a new language.
- B) They are looking for better job opportunities.
- C) They prefer warmer weather and a better work-life balance.
- D) The passage doesn't provide a reason for this specific choice.

5. What is one potential benefit of moving abroad mentioned in the passage that is NOT directly related to personal growth?

- A) Meeting people from different cultures
- B) Learning a new language
- C) Improving your job prospects upon returning home
- D) Experiencing a better climate

Paragraph 4:

Culture shock is a major problem. Many people who take a year out find it hard to cope with the language barrier, the food, and general cultural differences. This often leads to homesickness and in some cases a sense of isolation. Another issue is that it can be difficult to make new friends and find your place in the community. This process takes time and can be especially challenging if there is also a language barrier to deal with.

1. What is the MAIN IDEA of the paragraph?

- A) Spending a year abroad is a great way to make new friends quickly.
- B) Culture shock can be a significant challenge for people traveling abroad.
- C) Language barriers are the only reason people experience culture shock.
- D) Feeling homesick is a normal part of a successful year abroad.

2. Which detail from the passage supports the idea of culture shock being a problem?

- A) Many people take a year out to travel.
- B) People experience language barriers, unfamiliar food, and cultural differences.
- C) Making new friends can be challenging.
- D) Spending time abroad can lead to isolation.

3. What does the phrase "culture shock" most likely refer to in this context?

- A) The excitement of experiencing a new culture.
- B) The feeling of isolation when traveling alone.
- C) The difficulties of adjusting to a new cultural environment.
- D) The process of learning a new language.

4. According to the passage, what factors can contribute to a sense of isolation when traveling abroad?

- A) Trying new and unfamiliar foods.
- B) The excitement of exploring a new place.
- C) Difficulties with the language and making friends.
- D) Experiencing a different climate.