

Language ability **VOCABULARY 1.1**

- 1** Read what Carl, Heidi and Maria say about speaking languages. Fill in the gaps with the phrases in the boxes.

~~bad at~~ can't speak a word know a few words

To be honest, I'm quite ¹ **bad at** languages.

I ² _____ of French that I learned at school, but I ³ _____ of anything else.



Carl



Heidi

can also get by 'm reasonably good picked up

My first language is Swiss German, but I live near the border, so I ⁴ _____ at Italian.

I ⁵ _____ in French. We went to Lyon last summer and I ⁶ _____ the language very quickly.

also fluent in can have a conversation
'm bilingual it's a bit rusty

My mother is Spanish and my father is French so

I ⁷ _____ . I'm ⁸ _____

English, which I need for work. I ⁹ _____ in German, but ¹⁰ _____ .



Maria

- 2** Rewrite these sentences using the words/phrases in brackets.

1 I don't know any Japanese. (word)

I can't speak a word of Japanese.

2 I speak enough German for holidays. (get by)

I _____ on holiday.

3 My sister can speak Chinese very well. (fluent)

My _____

4 I haven't spoken Portuguese for a long time. (bit rusty)

My _____

5 I learned a few words of Italian on holiday. (picked)

I _____

6 I can speak both Turkish and Spanish perfectly. (bilingual)

I'm _____

The English verb system **GRAMMAR 1.1**

- 3 a** Match sentence beginnings 1–9 to endings a–i.

- 1 In the year 1000, English b
 - 2 The English language was _____
 - 3 A hundred years ago, many people were _____
 - 4 Cambridge University Press has _____
 - 5 By the 21st century, English had _____
 - 6 Immigration, new technologies, popular culture and even war have _____
 - 7 At present, over a billion people are _____
 - 8 English is _____
 - 9 However, more people speak _____
- a now learning English worldwide.
 - b had approximately 40,000 words.
 - c all contributed to the growth of English.
 - d using French as an international language.
 - e grown to over 500,000 words.
 - f been publishing English-language teaching books since 1975.
 - g Mandarin Chinese than any other language.
 - h taken to North America by settlers in the 17th century.
 - i used as a first language in at least 75 countries.

- b** Match sentences 1–9 in 3a to these verb forms.

- Present Simple 9
- Present Continuous _____
- Present Simple passive _____
- Present Perfect Simple _____
- Present Perfect Continuous _____
- Past Simple _____
- Past Continuous _____
- Past Simple passive _____
- Past Perfect Simple _____

- 4 a Read the first part of an article about 'Basic English' and choose the correct verb forms.



The idea of inventing an international language is not a new one. Over the past 180 years, linguists ¹have created / created over ten different languages that ²are based / be based on German, Spanish, English and even musical notes. One of the most influential of these ³had been / was 'Basic English'.

By 1923, the First World War ⁴was / had been over for five years, but Europe was still ⁵recovering / recovered from its effects. Charles Kay Ogden, a linguist and writer, was running several

bookshops in Cambridge. He ⁶had just written / just written published a book which described how we use language. The success of his book

⁷has inspired / inspired Ogden to design a universal language – one that was much simpler than English, but ⁸doesn't / didn't require native English speakers to study a different language. In 1930, Ogden's book *Basic English: A General Introduction with Rules and Grammar* ⁹was / were published.

It is estimated that, on average, it ¹⁰takes / took about seven years to become fluent in English. Ogden ¹¹believed / was believing that 'Basic English' could be learned in seven weeks. There ¹²had been / were only 850 words, and the grammar was simplified with very few exceptions to each rule.

- b Read the second part of the article below and fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

The language ¹ attracted (attract) the attention of educators all over the world, but its development ² _____ (interrupt) by the Second World War.

After the war, both the British prime minister and the president of the United States ³ _____ (look) for ideas that might promote world peace. They both ⁴ _____ (give) speeches that supported the use of Basic English. In the past 60 years, the language ⁵ _____ (have) some success. In some parts of East Asia, teachers ⁶ _____ (still; use) Ogden's word lists. However, in the main, the language has disappeared.

Now that we ⁷ _____ (know) that there are many more non-native than native speakers of English, some linguists ⁸ _____ (recently; ask) whether we should revisit Ogden's ideas. There is even a version of the Wikipedia website which ⁹ _____ (write) in 'Basic English' for non-native learners of the language. Google it now!