

LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD REVISION 2

1. Read and choose the correct answer:

A _____ is a simple language that appears when people who do not share a mother tongue need to communicate, often for trade.

- a. creole b. sign language c. gesture d. pidgin

Sometimes people use a _____ instead of words to show how they feel.

a. body language b. non-verbal communication c. eye contact d. gesture
Smiles and handshakes are forms of _____.

a. body language b. non-verbal communication c. eye contact d. creole
She speaks Spanish so well that I thought it was her _____.

a. gesture b. pidgin c. body language d. mother tongue
No one can understand him because he has a really thick French _____.

a. culture b. pidgin c. accent d. gesture
A small island might want to stay _____ to protect its traditions.

a. culture b. isolated c. community d. independent
I'm sure your sister will _____ when she finds out you've drawn pictures in her books.

a. be over the moon b. go through the roof c. get on her nerves d. be out of this world
I think you might _____ as Jimmy is my close friend, not my boyfriend.

a. be on a knife-edge b. be anybody's guess c. get the wrong end of the stick d. be a pain in the neck
Joe is a mathematician, so this math problem is _____ to him.

a. a walk in the park b. all very well c. a pain in the neck d. over the top
I believe that _____ a new language should be fun.

a. learning b. to learn c. learn d. is learning
What do you enjoy doing in your free time? - _____ sailing with my brother.

a. Go b. To go c. Going d. I'm going
_____ English has a relatively simple alphabet, its spelling can be surprisingly difficult for learners.

a. However b. Whereas c. Although d. Despite
Some learners prefer studying grammar rules, _____ others learn better by using the language in real conversations.

a. however b. whereas c. although d. despite
Kate was cooking _____ her husband was helping her with the laundry.

- a. however b. whereas c. although d. while

They went cycling _____ the bad weather.

- a. however b. despite c. although d. while

_____ been to Australia before?

- a. Whose b. Where c. Who d. Who's

What language _____?

- a. your cousin speaks fluently b. does your cousin speak fluently c. your cousin speak fluently d. your cousin spoke fluently

Whose accent sounds the poshest? _____.

- a. Alicia b. America c. Alicia's d. British

The concert _____ at 5 p.m. tomorrow. Don't be late!

- a. is starting b. will start c. start d. starts

What are your plans for the weekend? We _____ with the Smiths and _____ children to the zoo.

- a. are meeting up-taking b. meet up- take c. are meeting up- take d. will meet up- take

Using a wrong word in another language can cause _____.

- a. confidence b. impatience c. unhappiness d. embarrassment

Practicing every day can lead to _____ in a language.

- a. encouragement b. fluency c. confidence d. excitement

Our _____ has gone through a lot of ups and downs.

- a. friendship b. friends c. flexibility d. excitement

2. Rewrite the sentences without changing the meaning. Write NO MORE than 3 WORDS.

- a. It was fun to read that book in French.

→ _____ in French was fun.

- b. They said they didn't steal the bike. (**denied**)

→ They _____ the bike.

- c. Do you want to have dinner at Aeon mall tonight? (**fancy**)

→ Do _____ dinner at Aeon mall tonight?

- d. My sister loves collecting Chinese antiques. (**interested**)

→ My sister is _____ Chinese antiques.

- e. Good communicators are usually **flexible** in different situations. (**show**)

→ Good communicators usually _____ in different situations.

- f. You must be very **confident** to be able to speak in public. (**a lot**)

→ You must have _____ to be able to speak in public.

3. You are going to read an article about a language. Six sentences have been removed from the article. **Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6).** There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

I'm the last speaker of my language

I come from Chile and I've always been interested in my country's history and culture. It all started when I was about eight and I started to learn about the country's indigenous inhabitants. When I first found out about the native people of Patagonia, in the far south, I had no idea that my mother's family was from there and that her grandfather had been a Selk'nam. The last speaker of Selk'nam died in 1974. I really wanted to learn Selk'nam, so relatives on my father's side who live in Punta Arenas, the southernmost town in mainland Chile, sent me dictionaries. **(1)**..... But I had no idea what these sounded like.

Then, when I was about eleven, I saw a television programme about the Yagán people who lived on the island of Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost tip of South America. The programme interviewed two sisters, Cristina and Ursula Calderón, and said they were the only two speakers of their language left. **(2)**..... Only later did I discover that the two languages are quite different; that the two peoples couldn't communicate with each other.

One day, my mother told me that although she was born in the capital, Santiago, her grandfather was a Selk'nam from the north of Tierra del Fuego. Nobody had ever told me anything about this before. When I asked why, she said that when she was young she had been teased for looking different, and so she had just kept quiet about it.

When I was thirteen, I went to the south for the first time on my own to meet Cristina Calderón. **(3)**..... I discovered that there used to be four thousand Selk'nam in Tierra del Fuego. They were hunters of wild cats and foxes. The Yagán lived further south and travelled by canoe all the way down to Cape Horn, but the Selk'nam moved on foot.

Settlers from the north arrived in the nineteenth century and introduced diseases like measles and typhoid, which affected the local people very badly. Now, there's no way back. I got hold of some recordings of a Selk'nam shaman from the 1960s and started to study them. **(4)**..... Gradually, however, I began to understand how the words sounded and began to reproduce them.

A I felt a sudden desire to learn that one too.

B It was slow because I had no one to talk to.

C Yagán is quite different, however, because it has more vocabulary.

D This meant that I was able to start learning words, verbs and expressions.

E This was good because I didn't want to be the only one.

F These turned out to be rather hard for me to pronounce, however.

G The trip seemed the best way to find out about my roots.

The Selk'nam express themselves using lots of prefixes and suffixes, and the sounds are guttural, nasal and tonal. **(5)**..... For example, it has lots of different words for the weather. The hardest thing in Selk'nam, however, is the verbs – they all sound a bit the same. There are some English loanwords, such as 'bread' and 'money'. Others are descriptive: 'read' translates as 'playing with words' and 'drum' as 'vibrating leather'. Then there are words for modern things – for 'telephone', you have to say 'speak from afar', and 'car' is 'go on four wheels'. I speak the language well now. Cristina's husband spoke Selk'nam and apparently I sound just like him.

Because music is something that reaches lots of people, I started composing traditional songs in Selk'nam and formed a band with two friends. This meant that they had to learn some words, too. **(6)**..... I need to teach my language to more people because if something happened to me, it would die out all over again.

- A** I felt a sudden desire to learn that one too.
- B** It was slow because I had no one to talk to.
- C** Yagán is quite different, however, because it has more vocabulary.
- D** This meant that I was able to start learning words, verbs and expressions.
- E** This was good because I didn't want to be the only one.
- F** These turned out to be rather hard for me to pronounce, however.
- G** The trip seemed the best way to find out about my roots.