

Speaking a second language

Complete the text with these words. There are four words you do not need to use.

BE ABLE	CHOICE	DIFFICULT	HOWEVER	SKILLS
BECAUSE	COMPANIES	EASY	KEEN	SUFFERING
CAN	CUSTOMERS	ENOUGH	OUT	VIEWS

Two OUT⁰ of three teenagers in Britain are _____¹ to work abroad but most of them don't speak foreign languages. Government figures show that 58% of 11-18 year olds in the UK have no foreign language _____², and this has a negative effect on the economy. Tom Burridge reports:

Fact or fiction? Most British people are lazy when it comes to learning a foreign language.

- Fact. Why do you say that?
 - “Because we don't need to. Because everybody else speaks English.”
- Fact. “Foreigners make it too _____³ for you because they speak English when you're abroad”.

Those _____⁴ on the streets of London are backed up by figures. The British Government found that 58% of 11-18 year olds in the UK do not speak a second language. _____⁵, 2/3 of teenagers in Britain want to work abroad when they're older -the countries of _____⁶ being Italy, Spain, France or China.

The British government admits there is a problem – that not _____⁷ young people continue learning a second language when they leave school. Teresa Tinley from the country's national centre of languages says it has big implications for the economy:

We are in a competitive global market and we need to _____⁸ to speak to our _____⁹. Our business is very much focused towards English-speaking countries. Our research shows that our exports are _____¹⁰.