

5 Global English

Aims: Describing a diagram | Writing an introduction and conclusion

Part 1: Vocabulary

1 The expressions a–h below are all related to language. Use each expression once to complete the sentences 1–8.

a bilingual	e mother tongue
b foreign language	f non-native
c lingua franca	g official language
d minority languages	h standard form



- 1 The majority of people living in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand speak English as their _____.
- 2 English is a(n) _____ in a further fifty-three countries, including India and the Philippines.
- 3 English is the most widely taught _____ in the world.
- 4 Because English is used by so many people around the world for so many purposes, it is widely regarded as a _____.
- 5 The ratio of _____ speakers to native speakers of English is roughly three to one.
- 6 People who can speak two languages fluently are commonly referred to as _____.
- 7 There are many different varieties of English spoken throughout the world; in fact, there is no single _____.
- 8 Many people fear that the spread of English as a global language will contribute to the death of _____.

2 Match the types of words and expressions 1–7 below with the examples a–g.

1 a loanword	a lol
2 a colloquialism	b thou
3 a dialect of English	c café
4 a technical term	d There's more than one way to skin a cat.
5 an obsolete term	e Geordie
6 a saying	f wanna (= 'want to')
7 text speak	g refraction

3 In IELTS Writing Task 2, you are often required to express more than one point of view. You can use reporting verbs to do this. In English, there is a wide variety of reporting verbs, which can be used:

- to express beliefs: *believe, maintain, suspect, think*
- in discussion: *argue, assert, claim, insist, say*
- to show agreement: *accept, acknowledge, admit, advocate, agree, concede, support*
- to show disagreement: *challenge, deny, disagree, dismiss, doubt, object, question, refute*
- to give suggestions: *imply, suggest, urge*

Reporting verbs can be tentative (e.g. *suspect, suggest*), neutral (e.g. *say, agree*), or emphatic (e.g. *assert, dismiss*). Look at the sentences 1–7 below and underline the stronger of the two reporting verbs.

- 1 Many people *insist/argue* that there is one 'best' variety of English.
- 2 However, I *question/refute* the idea that one variety of the language is better than another.
- 3 Some people *doubt/deny* the value of a bilingual education.
- 4 Others *accept/advocate* the idea of a bilingual education, even for very young children.
- 5 I would *urge/suggest* that educational authorities do all they can to promote minority languages.
- 6 Some people *suspect/maintain* that within a century, there will only be two or three languages spoken in the world.
- 7 Other people *dismiss/doubt* the idea that all but two or three languages will die out.

4 Different reporting verbs are followed by different structures:

- **that + clause:** *Some people argue that governments should subsidise ...*
- **whether + clause:** *Others question whether governments should subsidise ...*
- **reporting verb +**
 - **preposition + noun/noun phrase:** *I object to the policy of government subsidies ...*
 - **noun/noun phrase:** *Most people support the idea of subsidising ...*
 - **gerund:** *Educators recommend subsidising ...*
 - **object + infinitive verb:** *I would urge the government to subsidise ...*

Some reporting verbs can be followed by more than one type of structure. For example:

- **question +**
 - **whether + clause:** *Others question whether schools should promote ...*
 - **noun phrase:** *Others question the feasibility of promoting ...*

Re-write the sentences 1–4 below using the phrases a–d. Make any changes necessary for a more academic style.

a Some people insist ...	c I concede ...
b Teachers recommend ...	d I refute the idea ...

- 1 Maybe making English a mandatory subject in primary schools isn't such a good idea.

- 2 The world definitely needs one common language for trade.

- 3 It is highly unlikely that everyone in the world will speak the same language at any point in the future.

- 4 You should practise a foreign language outside the classroom if you want to become really fluent in it.
