

A. Reading comprehension

"English as an international language"

What made English become an international language? Does English spread globally because it serves many needs and purposes? Whatever the answer, almost everybody accepts the fact that the enormous **growth** of international communication, social needs and the role of foreign languages in education have changed.

Nowadays people in many countries all over the world must speak more languages than their native language only. Not only are university students expected to speak a foreign language well, but also professional people from the working force of a country need it for practical purposes.

English is the language much more used today than in the past. It is widely known that its number of users are more than 600 million. Of these 300 speakers are native speakers while the other 300 million are non-native speakers which means that they have learned English as a second/foreign language and use it as an additional means of communication.

English has the biggest number of users of any other language worldwide. English can be used in many fields: in education, in mass media, in government, in literature, in the press (magazines/leaflets/newspapers), in politics and in entertainment (cinema, television, sport, transport, marketing, advertising, technology and computer science). English is here to stay.

Its obligatory education aims at helping pupils learn an international language in order to become international citizens of tomorrow who will use English as a means of international communication.

(slightly adapted from "Genika Aggliká": Tsiouris, E. & Parlapani, S.)

Answer / Απάντηση

1. It is necessary for people who study and work to speak at least one foreign language. **True/False**
2. Non-native speakers of English are more than native ones.

True/False

3. English can be used....
- a. in education and politics**
 - b. everywhere**
 - c. in any type of mass media**
4. The word "**growth**" in paragraph 1 can best be replaced (μπορεί να αντικατασταθεί) by the word...
- a. development (ανάπτυξη)**
 - b. use (χρήση)**
 - c. communication (επικοινωνία)**
5. The subject of English at school is.....
- a. compulsory (υποχρεωτικό)**
 - b. optional (προαιρετικό)**
6. The purpose (σκοπός) of this text is
- a. to present facts about the importance of English**
 - b. to persuade (να πείσει) the reader to start learning English**
7. The writer implies (υπονοεί) that ...
- a. people should speak their mothertongue (μητρική γλώσσα) more often than a foreign language**
 - b. it is an asset (προσόν) to be able to speak English**

B.(i) Fill in the gaps using the following words/ Συμπλήρωσε

international, aim, education, advertising, transport

1. English is the _____ language of aviation (αεροπορία).
2. What _____ do you have? A college degree?
3. Buses provide _____ in and around the city.
4. Companies need _____ to promote their products.

5. The _____ of an army is to protect the people.

B. (ii) Match the following words/phrases with their meaning in Greek/Ταίριαξε

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. government | μέσο επικοινωνίας |
| 2. role | ρόλος |
| 3. means of communication | προσδοκώ, περιμένω |
| 4. expect | κυβέρνηση |
| 5. working force | εργατικό δυναμικό |

C. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of 1st or 2nd conditional

1. If I were you, I _____ (not forgive) him.
2. If you don't wear your coat, you _____ (catch) a cold.
3. If I _____ (win) the lottery, I would be the richest man in the world.
4. If you _____ (drop) the vase, it will break.
5. If you _____ (send) her some flowers, she will be very happy.
6. If I lived in Italy, I _____ (learn) to cook Italian food.
7. If I _____ (own) that house, I would paint it a different colour.
8. I would cook steak if he _____ (eat) meat.