2a Read the blog and think about the questions Matt asks at the end.

MATT'S LANGUAGE BLOG – AN ENGLISH TEACHER IN SPAIN

HOME ABOUT ME PHOTOS POSTS CONTACT

- January
- February
- March
  - A rich mix
  - Fun grammar activities in English
  - American English vs British English
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December



24th March

A RICH MIX

Outside my apartment in Madrid, there's a giant billboard for a soft drinks company with the words *REFRESH YOURSELF!* in huge letters. I'm in Spain, but English seems to be everywhere! Why doesn't this advertisement use the Spanish *REFRESCATE!*, I wonder? Why use English? Maybe the company wants to look more international, or maybe it wants young people to buy their product.

And it doesn't just happen with English. Take Spanish, for example. When Spanish explorers first arrived in Latin America, they brought the Spanish language with them. But they also borrowed words from the new places they discovered. The words *avocado* and *chocolate* originate from the Mexican Aztec words *ahuacatl* and *xocolatl*. These words now appear in the English language, too. So it's interesting to see how language spreads around the world because of international travel.

In fact, English has absorbed words from many countries. Did you know that *yoghurt*, *pyjamas*, *giraffe*, *karaoke* and *pasta* are not really English words at all? They actually come from the Turkish, Hindi, Arabic, Japanese and Italian languages respectively.

So why does this happen? For hundreds of years, people from the UK have travelled to and settled in other parts of the world. These cultures have influenced the English language and, as a result, we can truly say that the English language is rich in foreign words.

But it now seems that English lends more words than it is taking. In new language areas like technology and computers, this is particularly evident. For instance, *blog*, *Internet* and *email* are English words, but people all over the world know and use them regularly. In Spanish the verb *googliar* is borrowed from *to google*, meaning to search for something on the Internet. And technology like the Internet and mobile phones is allowing English words to spread much more quickly. Another area where English words are used worldwide is tourism. In many countries, people recognise and understand words like *airport* and *taxi*. It is clear that English is now a global language.

But does the global use of English mean that other languages are suffering? And is English really 'English' if it uses words from other languages? How has English affected your language? Post a message and tell us what you think!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2b Read the blog again and match the sentence halves.

1 Advertisements in other countries often use	a because it has become a global language.
2 The Spanish explorers borrowed new words from the countries they visited	b people from other countries spending time in new places.
3 Language originally travelled thanks to	c because it helps for some words to be familiar all over the world.
4 The English language has many foreign words	d the English language to sound more international.
5 Other countries borrow words from English	e because it's had a lot of contact with other cultures over the centuries.
6 Language areas like technology and tourism use English a lot	f because they didn't have words for those things in their own language.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2c **Complete the table with English words in the blog that originate from Turkish, Hindi, Arabic and Japanese. Then guess which of the languages the English words in the box are borrowed from and add to the table.**

caravan • coffee • judo • pizza • shampoo • tomato

Hindi	Arabic	Italian	Japanese	Turkish	Aztec

LIVEWORKSHEETS