Listen and fill in the blanks

Speaker 1

I know people from all around the world, because my job involves looking for global _____ to environmental problems. I get to go abroad a lot and I do think speaking or reading the language of a country has been a huge help when I've visited. Of course, I've friends who've been all over without speaking another language, and they've been able to make themselves _____. But I've usually found that when I'm somewhere I can speak the language, I worry less about the _____ aspects of a journey and focus on enjoying what's going on around me. And that's what it's all about really.

[pause]

Speaker 2

Basically, it's pretty obvious: the better you can speak a language – or the more languages you know – the greater the number of people you can _____ with. In my case, I've formed close ties with a number of people from other countries. That's usually because we all _____ the time and effort we've spent getting to know a different language and culture. I'm lucky because languages were well taught at my school. I wasn't actually considered to be particularly clever, but I was given a good start as far as other languages are _____ I'm very grateful for that.

[pause]

Speaker 3

People often think I must be super-intelligent to be doing the course I'm doing but I don't think that's the case. I'm hoping to have a career in global finance, and the big _____ when I was applying for this college was the fact that I could speak several languages. That really helped me get in and I've met people from all over the world here. When I was a child, my parents _____

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around a great deal. Luckily, I was a [ ] child, so in every new country we lived in, I learnt the language quite quickly.

[pause]

Speaker 4

If you've ever travelled to a country where people speak a different language from your own, then you'll know that you can't just learn a list of words if you want to make yourself understood. The same idea is often [ ] differently in other languages. So it's actually taught me a lot about my mother tongue. When you speak a foreign language, you have to [ ] think about what you want to say and how you want to say it. I find it helps if I think about the grammar in my native language first – something I'd never really thought about before. I [ ] didn't when I was at school.

[pause]

Speaker 5

It's other people who have helped me learn languages, by letting me [ ] on in their native tongue even when they knew mine far better! So I have a lot of kind and patient people to thank. I could never [ ] in language classes at school, but then I realised how important languages are these days. After all, in our globalised world, knowing more than your own language is extremely useful. I wouldn't already be at the level I am now [ ] in my career if I didn't speak a few languages reasonably well. It's good to know all the travelling I did after leaving school wasn't wasted!

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