

Text B

The following text is about being bilingual.

Being able to switch between two or more languages in conversation is pretty cool. This week a study from the University of Washington found that bilingual babies will have developed 'better' brains before they even utter a first word. But it's not all brain development and top grades.

It's true people will find you cultured, worldly and intelligent, even though you probably didn't have a choice about learning an extra language. You either picked it up as a baby or you were forced to learn it when you moved to another country. But bilingual people are rarely equally proficient in both languages and it's easy to make mistakes in one language or the other. It takes real effort to keep both if you don't use them equally. Many people lose one of their languages over time.

5

An extra language makes you more marketable for employers since the 21st century world is a globalised economy. If employees can speak another language they can interact with more of the world, provided they have the range of vocabulary and fluency for a professional setting. Some bilinguals have been educated in a language they don't speak outside of school or college. They might be fluent there but not so much in the big, wide world.

10

Your first language can keep you in touch with your roots wherever you go, through books or through music. Although I moved to the UK when I was 10 and absorbed much of the surrounding culture, I'll never forget where I'm from since my mother frequently likes to remind me of proverbs that really don't make much sense in English.

15

Apparently, those who speak different languages can experience personality changes when switching from one to another. That explains why my friends say I sound angry when I'm on the phone to my parents!

20

Part 1: Identify the Writer's Ideas

Complete the table with **short notes only** (no full sentences).

Aspect	Key ideas from Text B
Brain development	
Social image	
Language difficulty	
Career benefits	
Cultural identity	
Personality changes	

Part 2: Benefits vs Drawbacks (Sorting Task)

Tick (✓) the correct column.

Idea	Benefit	Drawback
Better brain development in babies		
Hard to maintain both languages		
More job opportunities		
Losing one language over time		
Staying connected to cultural roots		
Making mistakes in one language		

Part 3: Effects on Different Groups

Complete the table.

Group	Likely effects according to Text B
Babies / children	
Teenagers	
Adults	
Working professionals	

