

20 SPEAK UP

VOCABULARY

Idioms

1 Match the two halves of the phrases to make idioms.

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1 break | a track of time |
| 2 break | b an eye for something |
| 3 take | c the ice |
| 4 be | d a pain |
| 5 be | e your mind |
| 6 cross | f someone's heart |
| 7 have | g your breath away |
| 8 lose | h a piece of cake |
-
- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 3 _____ | 5 _____ | 7 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 4 _____ | 6 _____ | 8 _____ |

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the idioms in Exercise 1.

- Oh, stop _____
– you're really annoying me!
- That exam _____
– I'm sure I got 100%.
- It never _____ that we
might not be able to get tickets for this concert.
I'm so disappointed.
- Do you know any good activities to _____
_____ when a new class begins?
- I always take my aunt with me when I go shopping
because she _____
a bargain!
- It _____ to see you so
unhappy – is there anything I can do to help?
- When we reached the top of the mountain, the
amazing view _____.
- I'm sorry I'm late. I _____.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence, using the word given.

- Watching my cat grow old made me sad. **HEART**
It _____
to watch my cat grow old.
- Getting into the house through the back window
was very easy. **CAKE**
It _____
to get into the house through the back window.
- Have you ever thought about buying a bicycle?
CROSSED
Has _____
to buy a bicycle?
- When I first saw London from the air, the view really
amazed me. **BREATH**
When I first saw London from the air, the view
_____.
- Starting with a game is a good way to make
everyone feel relaxed at a party. **ICE**
A good way _____
at a party is to start with a game.

READING

1 Read the title of the article and the first paragraph quickly. Ignore the gaps. Where do you think the article is from?



PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading and Use of English Part 3

2 For questions 1–8, read the first three paragraphs of the article. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.



EXAM TIPS

- Some of the answers will be plurals.
- At least one of the answers is likely to be a negative.

3 Choose the correct ending to each sentence.

- According to the writer, Esperanto has *had varying success / been unfairly criticised / improved relations between countries.*
- In the second paragraph 'foster conflict' means *make education difficult / interfere with politics / cause social problems.*
- Esperanto is not officially taught in English schools because *it lacks cultural depth / very few people speak it / English is the international language.*
- Supporters of Esperanto claim that *many famous people speak it / it has achieved a lot in a short time / soon everyone will understand it.*
- Brian Barker says that *people need to be educated about Esperanto / the English language is unpopular / nobody speaks Esperanto.*

4 Match the **highlighted** words in the article to the meanings.

- affecting or including a lot of
places, people, etc. _____
- people chosen by
a group to represent them,
especially at a meeting _____
- questioned if something is true _____
- when there's not enough of
something _____
- the fact of including many
different things _____

ESPERANTO SPEAKERS LAUNCH A NEW DRIVE

TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

In a conference hall in Iceland tomorrow, (0) CAMPAIGNERS (CAMPAIGN) from all over the world will gather to launch their latest attempt to get international (1) _____ (RECOGNISE) for the language they can all speak. The conference is held (2) _____ (ANNUAL), and the language they are promoting is Esperanto. (3) _____ (ATTEND) figures are expected to be around the 1,000 mark.

Esperanto has had an up-and-down history since it was created by Lazar Zamenhof in 1887 in (4) _____ (RESPOND) to linguistic divisions in his native Poland. He believed that language barriers foster conflict, and therefore set about promoting Esperanto as a 'neutral' second language that had no (5) _____ (POLITICS) history.

Nowadays, it is officially taught in around 600 primary and secondary schools around the world. However, attempts to get it officially accepted as a foreign language in English schools have so far been (6) _____ (SUCCESS). A spokeswoman for the Department of Education in the UK explained that the (7) _____ (DIFFICULT) in getting Esperanto taught as part of the national curriculum stems from the fact that there are no (8) _____ (LITERATURE) texts and no culture to interact with.

Supporters of the language argue that it is easy to learn and understand because it has a fairly simple grammatical structure. They point out that in its short history of over 130 years, Esperanto has established itself in the top 100 languages worldwide (out of a total of 6,800). It is also the 29th most used language on Wikipedia, ahead of Danish and Arabic. In addition, to argue against the UK government's point about the lack of literature, they say there is a 'rich body' of more than 50,000 titles which have either been translated into or written in Esperanto.

The delegates at the conference on Friday, who will be greeting each other with a cheerful *saluton* (hello), would like to see it play a more important role in the workings of institutions like the UN and the European Union. 'There are two urban myths about the international language problem,' said Brian Barker of the Esperanto Society. 'One is that everyone speaks English, and the other is that no one speaks Esperanto. Both are untrue and both need to be challenged.'

The language has not been without heavyweight supporters. Actors, businesspeople, scientists, artists and novelists – the breadth of Esperanto's appeal cannot be underestimated. Millionaire financier George Soros and *Star Trek* actor William Shatner (who even starred in a movie filmed entirely in Esperanto) have promoted it, and others who have spoken the language include J.R.R. Tolkien and Leo Tolstoy.

There is no shortage of campaigners ready to promote the language, therefore, although whether it will become more widespread in the future remains to be seen.

