

GE8 UNIT 1 LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD 5 (2026)

1. Read and complete the sentences with the words in the box and the letters given:

eye contact	population	body language	pidgin
isolated	community	non-verbal communication	independent
creole	culture	gesture	emigrate
accent	official language	mother tongue	fluent

Every _____ has its own way of living and speaking, and languages can appear in many different forms.

A _____ is a simple language that appears when people who do not share a mother tongue need to communicate, often for trade.

If you want to be _____ in Arabic, you should practice speaking with a native every day.

A _____ is a more developed language that grows from a pidgin and becomes the first language of a new generation.

Sometimes people use a _____ instead of words to show how they feel.

Good _____ can make a conversation feel friendly and respectful.

Smiles and handshakes are forms of _____.

Practice speaking with an AI bot can help you _____ your English.

Our _____ often says more than the words we speak.

The world's _____ is always changing as people move from one place to another.

Many families decide to _____ to new countries in search of better opportunities.

M n d r a a i n _____ is official language spoken in China.

Some groups live in _____ areas, far from big cities.

Many people in Hong Kong speak **C s e o n a t n e** _____ at home and in daily life.

A small island might want to stay _____ to protect its traditions.

Food, music, and language are all parts of a _____.

S n i k a r s t _____ is an ancient language of India used in many old texts and prayers.

She speaks Spanish so well that I thought it was her _____.

2. Join the sentences using WHILE- WHEREAS- ALTHOUGH- HOWEVER:

English is quite easy to learn in the early stages. French is quite difficult.

My cousin spent a month in Australia. She learned a lot of English when she was there.

I prefer outdoor activities. My sisters like staying indoors scrolling through social media.

Geography is his favorite subject. He doesn't know where Papua New Guinea is.

Translation apps are helpful. They cannot always capture cultural meanings.

Sign languages rely on visual gestures. Spoken languages depend on sound.

3. Reorder the words to form meaningful sentences:

cousin and Italian whose French fluently speaks?

ancient likes do know learning you how she languages?

me advantage being a others gives an speaker multilingual over the.

Spanish favorite pastime books in is my reading.

not antiques I in collecting am Chinese interested.

too spending isn't time working good for much you.

4. You are going to read an article about a language. Six sentences have been removed from the article. **Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6).** There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

I'm the last speaker of my language

I come from Chile and I've always been interested in my country's history and culture. It all started when I was about eight and I started to learn about the country's indigenous inhabitants. When I first found out about the native people of Patagonia, in the far south, I had no idea that my mother's family was from there and that her grandfather had been a Selk'nam. The last speaker of Selk'nam died in 1974. I really wanted to learn Selk'nam, so relatives on my father's side who live in Punta Arenas, the southernmost town in mainland Chile, sent me dictionaries. **(1)**..... But I had no idea what these sounded like.

Then, when I was about eleven, I saw a television programme about the Yagán people who lived on the island of Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost tip of South America. The programme interviewed two sisters, Cristina and Ursula Calderón, and said they were the only two speakers of their language left. **(2)**..... Only later did I discover that the two languages are quite different; that the two peoples couldn't communicate with each other.

One day, my mother told me that although she was born in the capital, Santiago, her grandfather was a Selk'nam from the north of Tierra del Fuego. Nobody had ever told me anything about this before. When I asked why, she said that when she was young she had been teased for looking different, and so she had just kept quiet about it.

When I was thirteen, I went to the south for the first time on my own to meet Cristina Calderón. **(3)**..... I discovered that there used to be four thousand Selk'nam in Tierra del Fuego. They were hunters of wild cats and foxes. The Yagán lived further south and travelled by canoe all the way down to Cape Horn, but the Selk'nam moved on foot.

Settlers from the north arrived in the nineteenth century and introduced diseases like measles and typhoid, which affected the local people very badly. Now, there's no way back. I got hold of some recordings of a Selk'nam shaman from the 1960s and started to study them. **(4)**..... Gradually, however, I began to understand how the words sounded and began to reproduce them.

A I felt a sudden desire to learn that one too.

B It was slow because I had no one to talk to.

C Yagán is quite different, however, because it has more vocabulary.

D This meant that I was able to start learning words, verbs and expressions.

E This was good because I didn't want to be the only one.

F These turned out to be rather hard for me to pronounce, however.

G The trip seemed the best way to find out about my roots.

The Selk'nam express themselves using lots of prefixes and suffixes, and the sounds are guttural, nasal and tonal. **(5)**..... For example, it has lots of different words for the weather. The hardest thing in Selk'nam, however, is the verbs – they all sound a bit the same. There are some English loanwords, such as 'bread' and 'money'. Others are descriptive: 'read' translates as 'playing with words' and 'drum' as 'vibrating leather'. Then there are words for modern things – for 'telephone', you have to say 'speak from afar', and 'car' is 'go on four wheels'. I speak the language well now. Cristina's husband spoke Selk'nam and apparently I sound just like him.

Because music is something that reaches lots of people, I started composing traditional songs in Selk'nam and formed a band with two friends. This meant that they had to learn some words, too. **(6)**..... I need to teach my language to more people because if something happened to me, it would die out all over again.

- A** I felt a sudden desire to learn that one too.
- B** It was slow because I had no one to talk to.
- C** Yagán is quite different, however, because it has more vocabulary.
- D** This meant that I was able to start learning words, verbs and expressions.
- E** This was good because I didn't want to be the only one.
- F** These turned out to be rather hard for me to pronounce, however.
- G** The trip seemed the best way to find out about my roots.