

1.2 Listening: (LR1.5) | Language and identity

Complete the gaps with the missing words

Oliver OK, so the first question is ... Does the language a person speaks _____ their identity? And if so, how? ... What do you think?

Mei That's a difficult question!

Oliver Yes! So, do you think you're a different person when you speak _____ than when you speak _____, Mei?

Mei Well, for me personally, I feel that I can _____ myself more freely in some ways when I'm speaking English. In my first language, it's not very polite to disagree with someone who is older or more _____—I'm not always comfortable giving my _____. So, I think when I speak English, I'm more confident—more sure of myself.

Saeed More _____.

Mei Yes, more _____.

Oliver Mmm. But is that the language or is it just the place? Are you more assertive because you're speaking English or because you're in another country?

Mei Hmm, maybe a bit of both. When I'm back home in China—

Saeed I know what you mean—

Mei Sorry, Saeed, you go.

Saeed No, no—please continue.

Mei I was just going to say, I think it's the language, because even when I'm speaking English with my friends back in China, I feel like I'm more _____. Is that just me?

Saeed No, I know what you mean. When I speak in English, I think it does affect my way of thinking.

Mei Uh-huh.

Saeed I feel free to think differently—maybe because English doesn't have the same _____ as my first language.

Oliver Really? See, I've had a very different experience with my language learning.

Saeed Oh, yeah?

Oliver I learnt French in school, but I was never that good at it.

Mei Oh.

Oliver So, whenever I had to speak _____—I went on holiday there once, to _____, and I thought, 'Great! Here's my chance to make use of my _____!' But I could never express myself the way I wanted.