a Is English important for these jobs in your town / city? Write 1–5 in the boxes (1 = English is not important, 5 = English is very important).

a waiter ☐ a doctor ☐ a taxi driver ☐ a policeman ☐ a teacher ☐ a lawyer ☐

b Read the text. Then answer the questions.

1 What do the banker, the waiter, and the factory worker have in common?
2 What does Jean-Paul do?
3 Where does he work?
4 What languages does he speak?
5 What language does he speak at work? Is this a problem for him?

English at work

What do these people have in common – a banker in Mexico City, a waiter in a five-star hotel in Moscow, and a worker in the Hitachi electronics factory in Tokyo? They all speak English at work. Today, English is the common language in multinational companies in countries from France to Singapore.

Jean-Paul Piat works for an IT company in Paris. Every day he has meetings with other managers in English. He also reads documents and writes emails in English, and speaks on the phone in English to offices in other countries.

'We're a multinational company with offices all over the world,' says Jean-Paul. 'We also have some people in our Paris office who aren't French. We need a common language to communicate, and that language is English. I think it is a good idea, but some people don't like speaking English in a meeting when nearly everybody is French.'

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c Look at the highlighted words and phrases. Guess their meaning. Check with your teacher or a dictionary.

d Is English important for your job?

WORDS AND PHRASES TO LEARN

What do you do?
I'm a *doctor*.
Where do you work?
I work *in a hospital*.
I like it very much.
He speaks *English* very well.
only
speak on the phone
all over the world

Ginny English & Art

Click here to see the answers!

LIVEWORKSHEETS