

# ENGLISH CLASS

## ACTIVITY

### 1. Match the following words with their definitions.

- a) monolingualism
- b) multilingualism
- c) *lingua franca*
- d) native tongue
- e) expatriate

- 1. a language used for communication between people who speak different languages
- 2. the language someone learns to speak first
- 3. the ability to use only one language for communication
- 4. a person living in a country that is not their own
- 5. the ability to use more than one language for communication

### 2. Join the following sentences.

- a) Being monolingual in a global world is limiting due to
- b) Most people learn English as a second language ; however,
- c) Learning several languages is very important in order to
- d) Language learning is a very enriching experience because
- e) Approximately half of the world's population are bilingual or plurilingual since
- f) English is a *lingua franca*

- 1. in multicultural societies, it might not be enough to communicate successfully.
- 2. they speak two or more languages.
- 3. it gives you access to new worlds.
- 4. the need to depend on others to translate for you.
- 5. but it doesn't allow you to fully understand cultural differences.
- 6. understand different cultures and realities.

### 3. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the words below.

affect • bridge • encouraged • belonging • disadvantage • first • employment • advantages

#### Why bilingual is better

In the past it was thought to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to be torn between two languages. Now children are \_\_\_\_\_ to be bilingual.

And why is that? Being bilingual, multilingual or monolingual is likely to \_\_\_\_\_ a child's identity, thinking, schooling and \_\_\_\_\_. It may even help to determine whom we marry. Bilingualism increases opportunities and choice and offers a host of possible \_\_\_\_\_: communication with the whole family and the community. Where parents have a different \_\_\_\_\_ language, a child who is bilingual can develop a special relationship with each parent. It creates a \_\_\_\_\_ between generations – with grandparents, for example. This helps build a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to the extended family and community.

## READING COMPREHENSION



Read the following text carefully.

### I am Indian, but I don't understand the words

The only language I speak fluently is English, with the next best being rather mediocre French. It wasn't until I moved to England a few years ago that I realized how much my identity was tied to the language I spoke.

Though I grew up in Saudi Arabia and India, I was raised speaking English. My parents, having been brought up in different states within India, spoke English around the house because it was their only shared language. Preschool and elementary school in Saudi Arabia were filled with the rich selection of English-speaking expatriates that the Middle East has to offer. It wasn't until later in life when I realized this monolingualism wasn't ordinary.

It all really hit home when I moved to India for high school. India is painfully multilingual — in urban areas most people speak at least two languages, while in rural areas you can drive for a day and pass through half a dozen different linguistic zones. For the first time, I was immersed in life as an Indian, and not as an expatriate. Nothing can make you stand out more than a complete inability to speak a single Indian language in a country where most people speak at least two. And my extended Indian family's reaction to my monolingualism was an almost distressing medley of amusement and incredulity.

India's enormous variety of languages and cultures give it a vibrancy that I have yet to experience in any other country. Yet for someone who speaks none of them fluently, I know I'm missing out on a fundamental part of being an Indian. To be fair, I never noticed any of this at the time. It was only when I arrived in London that I realized what I was missing. For once, I knew how to speak, fluently, the language of the majority. I was finally able to chat with the postman in the morning, or strike up a conversation with the lady behind the till at the supermarket.

I definitely wouldn't say I was English, but after years of living in places where I didn't speak the native tongue, I finally realized what it was like to feel 'at home' in a country.

By Feroz Salam

In <http://www.denizenmag.com/2011/04/i-dont-understand-the-words/> (abridged and adapted)

#### A. TRUE or FALSE? Quote from the text to support your answer.

1. Feroz speaks two languages fluently.
2. He found out that speaking only one language is not normal.
3. Not knowing how to communicate in Indian attracted people's attention to him.

#### B. Answer the following questions on the text in complete sentences and in your own words as far as possible.

1. Which countries has Feroz lived in?
2. Why do you think he says "India is painfully multicultural"? (paragraph 3)
3. What does he mean by "I know I'm missing out on a fundamental part of being an Indian"? (paragraph 4).
4. Why does he feel "at home" in England?

#### C. Complete the following meaningfully.

1. Although Feroz is Indian, he ...
2. His parents didn't share ...
3. His extended family felt both ... and ... by his monolingualism.



## WRITING



**Do either A or B in about 200 words. (45p)**

**A. Comment on the following. Express your personal opinion on the subject.**

“Everyone should speak the same language. English, being a global language, could serve that purpose.”

**B. What kind of English learner are you?**

You have been a student of English for over 6 years now. How important is learning English for you? Explain why/why not you like learning it and when/how you use it. Also include some tips on how to learn a foreign language more effectively.