



## WORKSHEET

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: June 14th, 2020

Grade: III° Section : "\_\_\_\_" Level: Intermediate 1 Teacher : PILAR RODAS

**COMPETENCIA:** Lee textos escritos en inglés como lengua extranjera

**CAPACIDAD:** Obtiene información del texto escrito.

**DESEMPEÑO PRECISADO:** Comprende y deduce información implícita y explícita de la lectura con la ayuda de un esquema.

## READING



### Very Different Languages: Languages of the World

There are about 7,000 different languages spoken around the world. Some have millions of speakers – like English, and others have only a few – like some tribal languages in Brazil. There are languages that are more difficult to learn than others, and some that are very different from any other language that we know. Let's learn about two languages spoken in Spain and South Africa.



#### Naira

I'm 15 years old and I live on the island of La Gomera. I speak a local language called Silbo. I've spoken Silbo since I was at primary school. Although it isn't really a language which we speak, it's a language that's made up of whistle sounds!

On my island, people have used Silbo for hundreds of years because whistling was a useful way for the islanders to communicate with each other across the hills and valleys. By the end of the 20th century though, Silbo was a dying language because many of the older speakers went to other islands for work. But now they teach the language at school so everybody can learn it again. There aren't any words in Silbo, it's a whistled form of Spanish with only two vowel and four consonant sounds. It's difficult to learn and you need a lot of practice. I practise Silbo with my grandfather who lives in the mountains. Sometimes I make a mistake, but it's fun to learn and I think it's important to understand this ancient language of my island.

#### Malusi

I'm 16 years old and I live in Bhisho, South Africa. I speak Xhosa, which is an official language in my country. Approximately 18% of South Africans speak Xhosa – that's about eight million people – and, like many African languages, it uses a lot of clicking sounds, as well as words, which makes it unusual. There are 10 vowels and 18 click consonants in Xhosa. A click consonant means we use our tongue in different positions in our mouth to make clicking sounds, e.g. on the inside of our cheeks, against our teeth, at the back of our throat. In fact, the word 'Xhosa' begins with a clicking sound because 'x' is a click consonant made with the tongue placed inside the cheek. Can you say 'Xhosa'? Maybe it's impossible if you've never learnt an African language, but it's easy when you know how!

Both Silbo and Xhosa are still very much a part of their countries and it is wonderful that the new generations are using these languages so that they continue to thrive.



**I. Read the text and then read the sentences and write Silbo(S)Xhosa(X)or bothe(B).**

1. It's one of very few non-verbal languages in the world.
2. Creating sounds using your mouth produces the language.
3. It's becoming more popular again thanks to an increase in speakers
4. The word for this language starts with an unusual sound.
5. There are vowels and consonants to create the unusual sounds
6. It isn't the only language which contains a mix of verbal and other sounds.

**II. Read the text again. What do these numbers in the refer to?**

- a. 8,000,000
- b. 20th century
- c. 18
- d. 7,000
- e. 13