

English as an International Language

1) Read the text and fill in the blanks with the words

CULTURE- HAND -INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE- FOREIGNERS- HEGEMONY- SPREAD-
WORLDWIDE- BUSINESS- GLOBAL- POPULARITY

About one hundred years ago many educated people learned and spoke French when they met people from other countries. Today most people speak English when they meet _____. It has become the new _____. There are more people who speak English as a second language than people who speak English as a first language. Why is this?

There are many reasons why English has become so popular. One of them is that English has become the language of _____. Another important reason is that popular American _____ (like movies, music, and McDonald's) has quickly _____ throughout the world. Some people might argue that this phenomenon might lead to cultural _____.

Is it good that English has spread _____ so quickly? I don't know. It's important to have a language that the people of the earth have in common. Our world has become very _____ and we need to communicate with one another. On the other _____, English is a fairly complicated language to learn and it brings its culture with it. Do we really need that?

Scientists have already tried to create an artificial language that isn't too difficult and doesn't include any one group's culture. It is called Esperanto. But it hasn't become popular. Maybe the popularity of English won't last that long either. Who knows? It is a fact that Chinese has gained _____ more than any other language. Maybe someday Chinese will be the new international language.

1. What was the world language 100 years ago?
2. Which group is larger- people who speak English as a first language or people who speak English as a second language?
3. What are two reasons English has become an international language today?
4. What are two reasons English isn't a good international language?
5. What is Esperanto?
6. What might the future international language be?