

I. Complete the passage with words from the box.

nationalities

power

dialects

derived spread

varieties

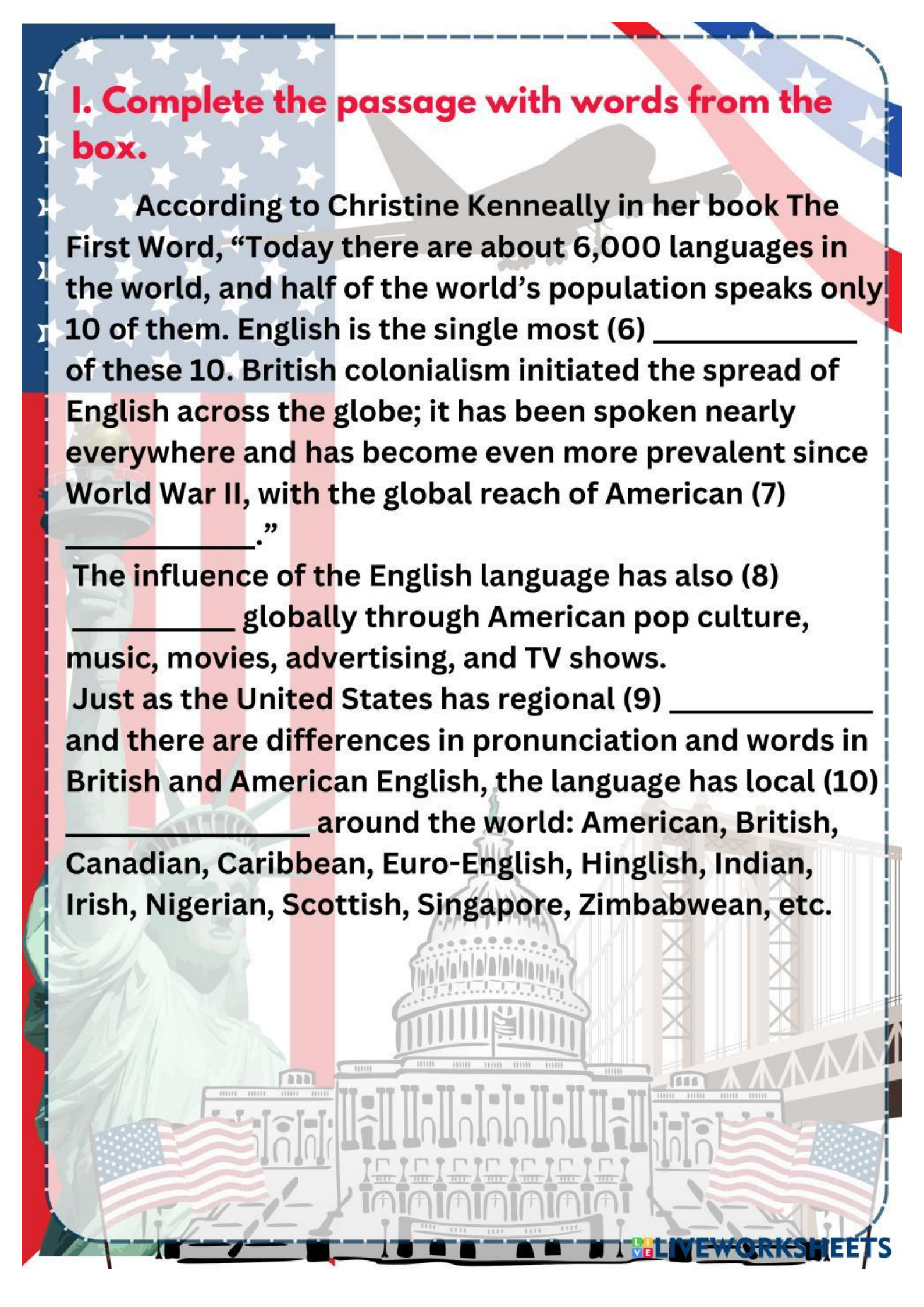
primary

worldwide

dominant

second

The term "English" is (1) _____ from Anglisc, the speech of the Angles – one of the three Germanic tribes that invaded England during the fifth century. The English language is the (2) _____ language of several countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and many of its former colonies, and the United States, and the (3) _____ language in a number of multilingual countries, including India, Singapore, and the Philippines. It's an official language in several African countries as well, such as Liberia, Nigeria, and South Africa, but is spoken (4) _____ in more than 100. It's learned around the world by children in school as a foreign language and often becomes a common denominator between people of different (5) _____ when they meet while traveling, doing business, or in other contexts.



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★ According to Christine Kenneally in her book *The First Word*, “Today there are about 6,000 languages in the world, and half of the world’s population speaks only 10 of them. English is the single most (6) _____ of these 10. British colonialism initiated the spread of English across the globe; it has been spoken nearly everywhere and has become even more prevalent since World War II, with the global reach of American (7) _____.”

The influence of the English language has also (8) _____ globally through American pop culture, music, movies, advertising, and TV shows.

Just as the United States has regional (9) _____ and there are differences in pronunciation and words in British and American English, the language has local (10) _____ around the world: American, British, Canadian, Caribbean, Euro-English, Hinglish, Indian, Irish, Nigerian, Scottish, Singapore, Zimbabwean, etc.