

Unit 7

I. Vocab List

Images	Vocabulary
	<p>assimilate [ə'sɪməleɪt]</p> <p>v. To assimilate is to adopt the ways of a new culture and fully become a part of it. <i>When the family moves to the US they will assimilate into American culture.</i></p>
	<p>attempt [ə'tempt]</p> <p>n. An attempt is an act of trying to do something, especially something difficult. <i>This is Ben's second attempt to climb Mt. Everest.</i></p>
	<p>case [keɪs]</p> <p>n. A case is an example of a particular situation or of something happening. <i>A deposit of \$1,000 is required, but in this case, we will accept half.</i></p>
	<p>cease [si:s]</p> <p>v. To cease is to stop doing something or to stop something happening. <i>The rain will cease in the afternoon.</i></p>
	<p>danger ['deɪndʒər]</p> <p>n. Danger is the possibility that someone or something will be harmed, destroyed, or killed. <i>Smoking cigarettes is a danger to health.</i></p>
	<p>devastating ['devəsteɪtɪŋ]</p> <p>adj. If something is devastating, it causes great harm or damage to something or someone. <i>The tsunami had devastating effects on the seaside village.</i></p>
	<p>diversity [daɪ'vɜ:rsəti]</p> <p>n. Diversity is the quality or state of having many different forms, types, ideas, etc. <i>My company puts an emphasis on the importance on having cultural diversity.</i></p>
	<p>earthquake [ˈɜ:rθkweɪk]</p> <p>n. An earthquake is a sudden shaking of a part of the Earth's surface that often causes a lot of damage. <i>The earthquake caused the road to crack in multiple places.</i></p>

	<p>endangered [ɪnˈdeɪndʒərd] <i>adj.</i> If something is endangered, it has become very rare and may eventually die out altogether. <i>The whooping crane is an endangered species.</i></p>
	<p>extinction [ɪkˈstɪŋkʃən] <i>n.</i> Extinction is when a particular animal, plant, type of person, custom, skill, etc. stops existing. <i>The extinction of the dodo bird occurred in the 1600s.</i></p>
	<p>forever [fəˈevə] <i>adv.</i> We use forever in place of “for all future time” or “for a very long time.” <i>Michelle and Tanya want to be best friends forever.</i></p>
	<p>generally [ˈdʒenərəli] <i>adv.</i> We use generally in place of “in most cases” or “to most people.” <i>The suburbs are generally viewed as a good place to raise children.</i></p>
	<p>genocide [ˈdʒenəsəɪd] <i>n.</i> Genocide is the deliberate murder of a whole group or race of people. <i>As a result of the genocide, many children have been orphaned.</i></p>
	<p>hit [hɪt] <i>v.</i> To hit is to affect someone or something in a harmful or dangerous way. <i>The ship was hit by a violent storm.</i></p>
	<p>lose [luːz] <i>v.</i> To lose is to have something that is important or necessary taken from you or destroyed. <i>The family never thought they'd lose everything to fire.</i></p>
	<p>native [ˈneɪtɪv] <i>adj.</i> If something is native, it refers to the place someone was born and raised. <i>Carlos is a hero in his native country of Brazil.</i></p>
	<p>percent [pərˈsent] <i>n.</i> A percent is an amount that is equal to one one-hundredth of something. <i>Liz needs to get 80 percent on her test to pass the course.</i></p>

	<p>reason ['ri:zn] <i>n.</i> A reason is a statement or fact that explains why something is the way it is, or why someone does, thinks, or says something. <i>The reason Eric is late for work is that he forgot to set his alarm.</i></p>
	<p>reference ['refərəns] <i>n.</i> A reference is the act of referring to something or someone. <i>My supervisor made a reference to the data I'd collected.</i></p>
	<p>urban ['ɜ:rbən] <i>adj.</i> If something is urban, it is related to towns and cities. <i>It is common to see tall buildings in urban areas.</i></p>

II. Exercises

A. Circle the word that is opposite in meaning to the given word.

- lose

a. gain b. defeat c. hurt d. disappear
- forever

a. permanent b. always c. long d. temporary
- urban

a. city b. rural c. tower d. street
- danger

a. sign b. warning c. safety d. law
- generally

a. specifically b. additionally c. finally d. mostly

B. Write the phrase that best fits each sentence.

- a. **devastating** damage to the trees
- b. **hit** with overdue bills they could not afford
- c. on his first **attempt**
- d. In the **case** of a fire
- e. France is her **native** country

1. David failed his driving test _____.
2. The family was _____.
3. Julie speaks French because _____.
4. The windstorm caused _____.
5. _____, use the stairs to leave the building.

C. Write the word from the word bank that best fits each sentence.**WORD BANK**

reason	earthquake	genocide	endangered		
assimilate	reference	cease	diversity	extinction	percent

1. The news article on the new drug made no _____ to previous research on similar drugs.
2. Matt studied very hard, so he had no _____ to fail the exam.
3. The meeting did not end quickly because there was such a(n) _____ range of opinions.
4. The students were told to hide under their desks during the _____ drill.
5. Wildlife conservationists are working hard to protect _____ animals.

6. The war in the desert will temporarily _____.
7. Dinosaurs faced _____ and no longer roam the planet.
8. Hitler's army carried out _____ during World War II.
9. The immigrant found it challenging to _____ into the culture of his new country.
10. Studies show that about ten _____ of the world population is left-handed.

III. Reading comprehension

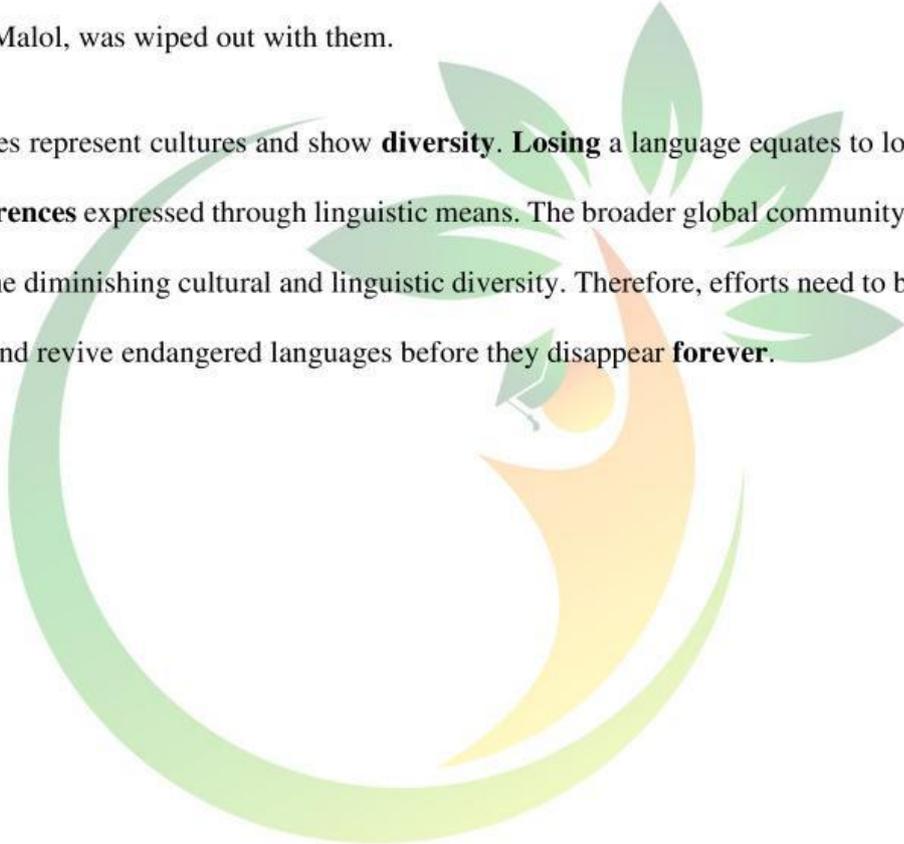
Endangered Languages

Most people know about **endangered** plants and animals. However, not everyone is aware of the extent to which many languages are in **danger** of **extinction**. Currently, there are almost 500 languages that are officially endangered. According to statistics, 95 **percent** of the world's population only speak six percent of the existing 7,000 languages. This means that only six percent speak all the other languages. Some languages have fewer than a dozen speakers. There are several **reasons** why languages become extinct.

A key reason is the influence of the dominant languages. **Generally**, dominant languages are associated with higher social status and education. People who move to **urban** areas are forced to learn the dominant language. In most **cases**, the children do not learn their **native** language. In addition, many rural communities give up their linguistic heritage in an **attempt** to **assimilate** into mainstream culture. For example, India has lost 220 of 780 languages in the last 50 years. Once Hindi was recognized as the official language of India, the number of Hindi speakers increased from 260 million to over 420 million.

Another reason languages may **cease** to exist is that the people who speak an endangered language may be in physical danger, such as from war or **genocide**. Many languages of the indigenous peoples in the Americas are either extinct or endangered for this very reason. Natural disasters and disease can also wipe out entire populations. When the people in a village of Papua New Guinea were **hit** by a **devastating earthquake**, all were wiped out. The language they spoke, Malol, was wiped out with them.

Languages represent cultures and show **diversity**. **Losing** a language equates to losing all cultural **references** expressed through linguistic means. The broader global community suffers because of the diminishing cultural and linguistic diversity. Therefore, efforts need to be made to preserve and revive endangered languages before they disappear **forever**.



BIGTREE LAND

Part A. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.

1. ___ A few languages have fewer than twelve speakers.
2. ___ Dominant languages have minor effects on endangered languages.
3. ___ The official language of India is an endangered language.
4. ___ The number of Hindi speakers has decreased in the last fifty years.
5. ___ War and genocide can cause a language to become extinct.

Part B. Answer the questions.

1. What is this reading about?
 - a. Creating a new language
 - b. Teaching languages
 - c. Studying linguistic traits
 - d. Losing a language
2. How many languages are officially endangered?
 - a. About 95
 - b. Approximately 500
 - c. About 7,000
 - d. Around 220
3. Why do people in rural areas stop using their native language?
 - a. Because they are physically endangered.
 - b. Because they want to adopt modern languages.
 - c. Because they need to assimilate into mainstream culture.
 - d. Because they lose interest in their native language.