



1 LISTENING

a Ask and answer the questions.

- Which languages can you speak?
- Which languages would you like to learn?
- Look at the languages in the box. Where do people speak these languages?

Greek	Italian	English	French	Arabic	Basque
Japanese	Mandarin Chinese	Russian	Spanish		

b 3.41 Listen to Professor Ryan Hunter talking about languages on the radio. Tick (✓) the languages in 1a that he talks about.

c 3.41 Match sentences 1–4 with the languages Professor Hunter talks about. Listen and check your answers.

- He thinks it's a very beautiful language.
- It's a difficult language for English speakers, but not for Mandarin Chinese speakers.
- Many people think it's very easy.
- Over 900 million people speak it.

d 3.41 Listen again and answer the questions.

- What was the first language Professor Hunter learned?
- How many languages can he speak?
- Where do people speak Basque?
- How much of the world's population speak Mandarin Chinese?

e Choose one thing Professor Hunter said which you think is:

- a interesting b surprising.

2 GRAMMAR Superlative adjectives

a 3.42 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Listen and check your answers.

best	easiest	musical	biggest	hardest
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- Signora Monti was the _____ teacher at my school.
- Italian is the most _____ language I know.
- The _____ language to learn is Basque.
- Spanish is the _____ language to learn.
- China has the _____ population in the world.

b Read the sentences below and put the languages in order (1 = very easy, 4 = very difficult).

For me, **French** is easier than **Japanese**. But people say that **Spanish** is the easiest language in the world and **Basque** is the most difficult.

c Think about your own language. What number do you think it has (1 = very easy, 4 = very difficult)?

d Look at the sentences in 2a. Then complete the rules and the examples.

- Short adjectives (e.g. *hard*) add _____
small → _____
- Write _____ before long adjectives (e.g. *musical*)
expensive → _____ expensive
- Some adjectives are irregular (e.g. *good*, *bad*)
good → the _____
bad → the worst

f 3.44 **Pronunciation** Listen to these phrases. Notice how the words are stressed.

the biggest the easiest the harddest

g 3.45 Listen to these questions. Where's the main stress: on *most* or on the adjective?

- What's the most beautiful language in the world?
What's the most useful language to speak?
What's the most difficult language in the world?