

UNIT 6: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

3. What problems do people experience when they learn your language?

no walk in the park real minefield scratching their heads worth the effort

Honestly, the biggest headache is the pronunciation — the tones are a (1) _____, and one wrong pitch can change the meaning entirely. Then there's the slang and idioms, which can **leave** learners (2) _____. And of course, the writing system is (3) _____; memorising so many characters feels like climbing a mountain. So it's tricky, but that's what makes it (4) _____.

completely off track learning curve trip most people up walking a tightrope

To be honest, the tones (1) _____ — it's *like* (2) _____, where one slip changes the whole meaning. Then there's the slang, which can *throw you* (3) _____. And if you add the complex writing system into the mix, you've got quite *a steep* (4) _____.

entirely different feel lost in nailing the pronunciation nightmare to memorise

I think the trickiest bit is (1) _____. The tones are unforgiving — one tiny mistake and you've said something (2) _____. Plus, our idioms don't always translate well, so learners can (3) _____ *conversation*. The characters are another story — they're beautiful but can be *a* (4) _____.

challenge in itself struggle with stumbling block tangled up in

Most people (1) _____ the tones — they're a real (2) _____. Even advanced learners can get (3) _____ idioms or informal expressions. And, of course, the writing system is a (4) _____; it's not something you can master overnight.

no small feat out of their depth packed with walking through

I'd say the biggest challenge is the *tonal system* — it's a bit like (1) _____ *a linguistic minefield*, where one wrong tone can change the meaning completely. On top of that, our idioms are (2) _____ cultural references, so even fluent speakers can feel (3) _____. And let's not forget the characters — they're stunning to look at, but memorising them is (4) _____.

at a loss

biggest hurdles

deeply rewarding

good grasp of

grappling with

keeping up

linguistic tightrope

mix of

over the long haul

stumbling block

throw in

without a map

Well, I'd say that one of the (1) _____ for people learning my language is mastering the pronunciation, because the tones can be a real (2) _____. A single slip in pitch can completely change the meaning of a word, so learners often feel as though they're *walking a* (3) _____.

Another common issue is (4) _____ idiomatic expressions and cultural references. Even if someone has a (5) _____ grammar and vocabulary, they can still find themselves (6) _____ *for words* when locals (7) _____ slang or figurative phrases.

On top of that, the writing system can be quite a tall order, especially for those whose first language uses a different script. Memorising hundreds, if not thousands, of characters can feel like *climbing a mountain* (8) _____.

And finally, I think many learners struggle with (9) _____ *their momentum*. It's easy to start with enthusiasm, but sustaining that energy (10) _____ requires discipline, exposure, and, to be honest, *a fair amount of blood, sweat, and tears*.

So, in short, the challenges are *a* (11) _____ *linguistic complexity and cultural nuance*, which makes learning my language *both demanding and* (12) _____.