

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) _____.

<i>at a loss</i>	<i>biggest hurdles</i>	<i>deeply rewarding</i>	<i>good grasp of</i>
<i>grappling with</i>	<i>keeping up</i>	<i>linguistic tightrope</i>	<i>mix of</i>
<i>over the long haul</i>	<i>stumbling block</i>	<i>throw in</i>	<i>without a map</i>

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) _____*.