

Hi there! In Wales, lots of people are bilingual. I speak English at home. At school, I speak Welsh, and I'm learning French, too. Here's an article from our school magazine. Two people talk about the languages they're learning.

POST ☑

33 Listen and read.

Differences and similarities in languages

There are more than 6,000 different languages in the world. Some of these languages have similar vocabulary and grammar, but many are completely different.

For example:

- Some languages give nouns a gender. The nouns can be masculine, feminine or neutral. Other languages don't give nouns a gender.
- Some languages use the letters of an alphabet to write words. Other languages use characters instead of words.
- Some languages don't conjugate verbs. Other languages have many different conjugations.

雨

the Japanese character for 'rain'

How do you say 'Do you live in Wales?' in Welsh?

Ydych chi'n byw yng Nghymru?

People learning foreign languages

Harry. I'm learning Japanese because my brother lives in Japan. Some aspects of Japanese are easy. For example, there aren't any verb conjugations, and nouns don't have a gender. But reading and writing in Japanese is very difficult for me. There are thousands of different characters to learn. And when you read a sentence, you don't read it from left to right. You read it from top to bottom.

Vanessa. I'm English, but I live in Wales. I'm learning Welsh because I want to speak to my Welsh friends in Welsh. In English, nouns don't have a gender, so it's difficult for me to remember the gender of nouns in Welsh. And spelling Welsh words isn't easy. But I love speaking the Welsh language, and I'm very happy with my progress.

34 Read and answer.

1. Which language is written in characters?

   a) Japanese b) Welsh

2. Which language doesn't conjugate verbs?

   a) Japanese b) Welsh

3. Which language gives nouns a gender?

   a) Japanese b) Welsh

4. Which language do you read in a different direction?

   a) Japanese b) Welsh

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5. What things does Harry think are difficult about learning Japanese?

a) reading and speaking **b)** reading and writing

6. What things does Vanessa think are difficult about learning Welsh?

a) the gender of nouns and the conjugations

b) the spelling and the gender of nouns

7. Who thinks some aspects of the foreign language are easy?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

8. Who wants to learn the language before visiting family?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

9. Who thinks spelling words is difficult?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

10. Who thinks reading and writing is difficult?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

11. Who loves speaking in the foreign language?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

12. Who thinks it is difficult to remember the gender of nouns?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

13. Who wants to talk to friends in the foreign language?

a) Harry **b)** Vanessa

35 Read and tick or cross.

English	Japanese	Welsh	
☐	☐	☐	**…conjugates verbs**
☐	☐	☐	**…gives nouns a gender**
☐	☐	☐	**…uses characters to write**
☐	☐	☐	**…uses the letters of an alphabet to write**

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