

Interestingly, English has fewer native speakers than Chinese, but there are about one billion learners of English all around the world. They learn English as an international language.

About fifty percent of the world's languages have fewer than 5000 speakers. In the beginning of the twenty-first century, 204 languages had fewer than 10 speakers and 344 languages had between 10 and 99 speakers. The 548 languages with fewer than 99 speakers make up nearly 8 percent of the world's languages. We call them 'endangered languages'. As the speakers of such languages grow old and die, their languages will die, too.

All languages are really valuable, despite their differences. Every language is an amazing means of communication that meets the needs of its own speakers. It is impossible to imagine the world without language. Therefore, we should respect all languages, no matter how different they are and how many speakers they have.

Reading Strategy

Scanning

You can scan a reading passage to look for and find specific information quickly such as a number, a name, a word, or a phrase.

Follow these steps to scan:

- Make a clear picture in your mind of the information you are looking for.
- Look for that information.
- Move your eyes quickly across the text. Don't read every word. When you find the information, stop, read the sentence and mark the information.