

I would use Spanish primarily when going on holiday. I've been to Spain many times, and I always find that if you go off the beaten track it's difficult to find people who speak English. You get very good at speaking with your hands! And it's difficult to really engage with people and understand the culture if you don't speak the language. Speaking Spanish would undoubtedly make my holidays a lot easier and more enjoyable. On top of that, the company I work for has an office in Madrid and it would also be very interesting to be able to work there. I would enjoy the challenge and the exposure to a new culture. It would be such an exciting opportunity. To make the move, though, I'd obviously need to be able to speak Spanish. Luckily, my company would most likely sponsor me to have Spanish lessons.

**Examiner:** Where have you been in Spain?

**Candidate:** I've been to Spain many times and each time I did a road trip. One trip was in the north of Spain, travelling from France across the Pyrenees, through the Basque country and all the way down to Madrid.

### Track 33

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### Track 34

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### Track 35

#### Language learning

Is it considered important in your country to learn foreign languages?

What, in your opinion, is the best way to learn a language?

Why are some people seemingly better at learning languages than others?

#### English as a global language

How do people in your country feel about English being the world language?

Do you think the culture of English-speaking countries, as well as the English language, dominate the world?

Why do you think people feel it is important to continue speaking their local languages?

#### Sample answers:

**Examiner:** Is it considered important in your country to learn foreign languages?

**Candidate:** More than just important, it's considered essential. The English poet John Donne said 'no man is an island', and I think in this day and age that is also true of countries: we are all intricately connected. A country that wants to do business abroad and export its goods has to know how to communicate with foreigners, and that means speaking foreign languages.

**Examiner:** What, in your opinion, is the best way to learn a language?

**Candidate:** Undoubtedly, the best way is to go and live in a country where the language is spoken as a native language. But that is not enough – I have friends who have done just that, but they stuck together with people who spoke their language and so they hardly learnt anything. You have to immerse yourself completely in the language and the culture.