

SPEAKING

Let's talk about languages

LEVEL

Intermediate (B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_3084S

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can talk about language diversity and how multilingualism affects my life.
- I can use a variety of more advanced idioms in a conversation about languages.





Reading

Read the email. **Complete** the activities on the next slides.

← → ↺

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☰

Subject: Multilingual Britain

To: <me>

Good afternoon,

We are pleased to select you as a speaker at the inaugural Multilingual Britain Celebration this year! This event honours the **over 300 languages** that are spoken throughout our country. The theme of your speech should be **the value of linguistic diversity**. We'd like a speech that will really wow the audience and make them think about the power and diversity of language!

We look forward to hearing your speech.

Thank you (Danke! Gracias! Merci! Shukran!)

The Language Council of Bristol

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Send



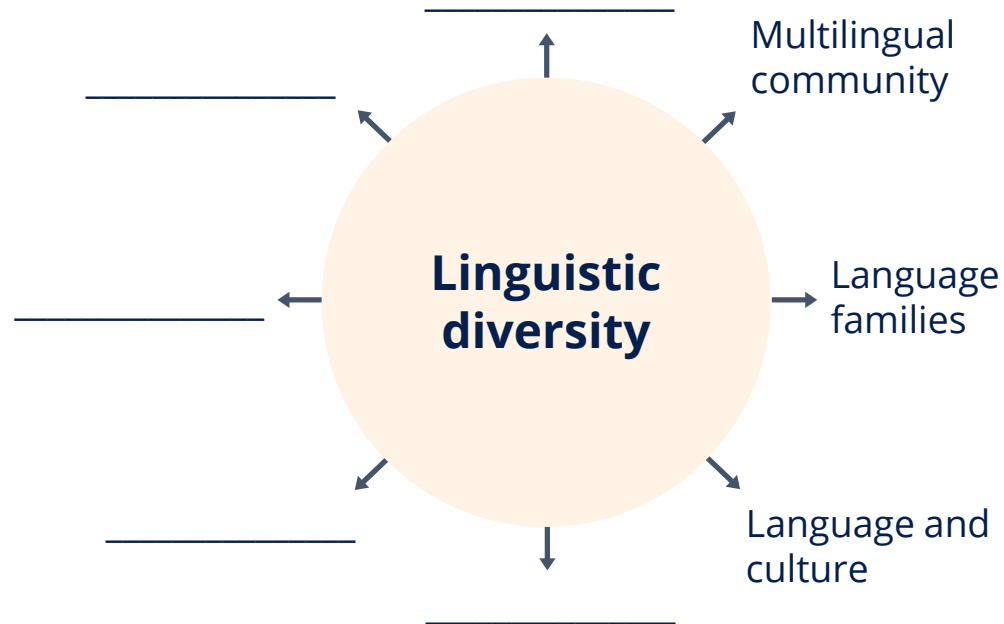


Brainstorm session

You'll be speaking about **the value of linguistic diversity**.

Brainstorm some ideas to prepare for the talk.

Complete this activity **in breakout rooms** or **as a class**.



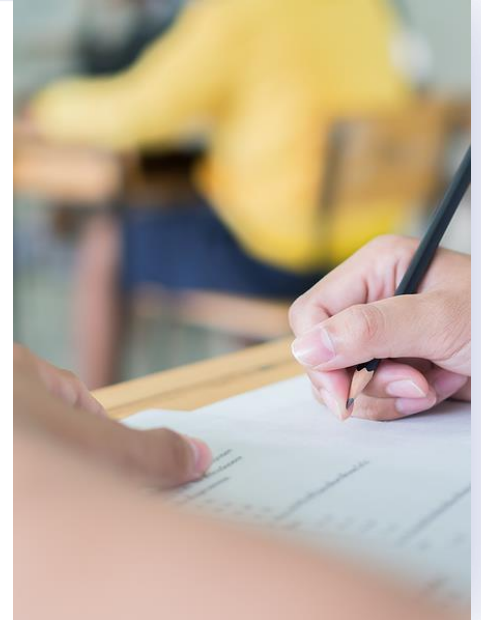


Interview

You decide to talk to your friend Farid about his experience with languages. Here is what he told you. **Complete the text** using the words in the boxes.

I grew up basically _____. I spoke Arabic at home and began learning English from age three when I went to nursery school. Arabic is technically my _____. I had a very good _____ of English from a young age and was fluent by the time I started school.

It's hard to say to what extent being bilingual affects how I think. I do know that it affects how I see the world though. I have a different _____ of the UK as someone who has had to _____ between language and culture.



**mother
tongue**

bilingual

command

mediate

perception



Discuss

**Did you or someone
you know grow up
speaking two
languages?**



**What might be the
benefits and challenges
of raising bilingual
children?**

Understanding idioms

Read the text and **complete** the activity in the red box.

Sorry that I was late! The traffic on the way to work really **drives me up the wall**. Okay, so let's get started.

We're so glad you're both going to present. How are you feeling about it? It's normal to **have butterflies in your stomach** before a speech! You both seem like **you're on the ball** though.

We think this topic is pretty engaging for students, teachers...all people really. We're not sure how many people will come—**your guess is as good as mine!**

So, you'll both give your speeches, then we'll have a musical performance. After that, there's going to be food from around the world. The food will be delicious. It's stuff that would **cost an arm and a leg** at a restaurant.

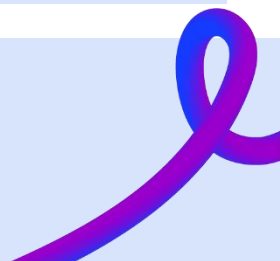
You and another presenter, who is a native Farsi speaker, go to meet with the director of the Language Council of Bristol. The director talks fast and uses quite a few idioms.

Read the sentences above. **Mediate the content** for your friend.



Match each phrase to its definition

1	<i>This kind of attitude drives me up the wall.</i>	a	I don't know
2	<i>I had butterflies in my stomach before my meeting with the director.</i>	b	is expensive
3	<i>I've really been on the ball these last few weeks at work.</i>	c	performing well
4	<i>They haven't released the line-up yet, so your guess is as good as mine!</i>	d	makes me angry and/or frustrated
5	<i>I don't want to eat anywhere that costs an arm and a leg.</i>	e	was nervous

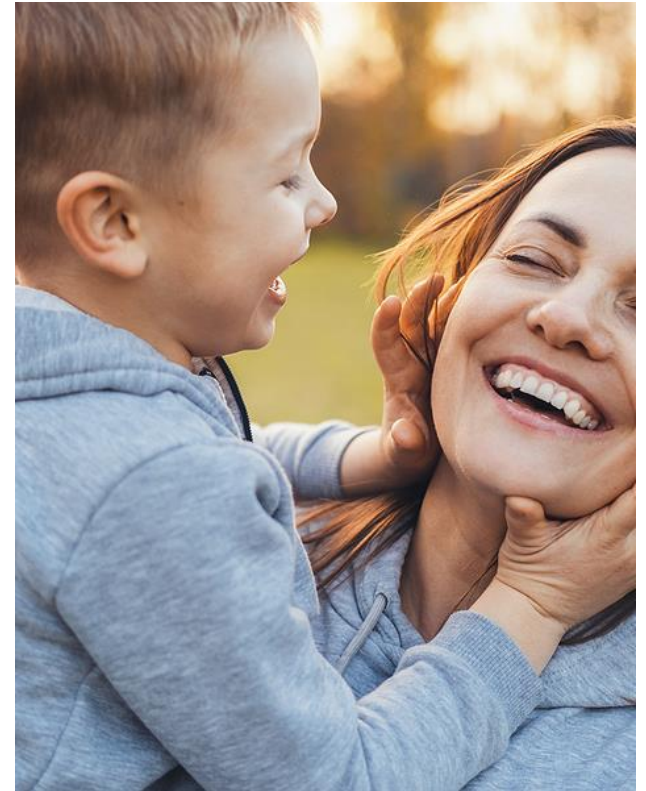




Discuss

**What is an idiom
from your own
mother tongue?**

**Try to explain its meaning in
English.**



Research activity

Time to get to business! You want to share some facts about language diversity during your speech. **Share one interesting fact** for each of the following topics.

The number and variety of languages will surprise you.

Many languages are at risk.

Languages form when people meet.

Languages, like humans, can be organised into families.

You can use a search engine to help you!



Role play: the value of linguistic diversity

While preparing for your speech, you encounter someone with a different view on languages. **Pick a side** and **complete** the following role play.



Person 1

...thinks linguistic diversity is valuable

Linguistic diversity is beneficial, and multilingualism is a positive trait!



Person 2

...questions the value of linguistic diversity.

People in England should speak English!



Gather your thoughts

You've been planning and discussing your speech for the Multilingual Britain Celebration...



Prepare a brief talk focussing on **ONE** of the topics above, using what you've discussed in the lesson as inspiration. Be sure to include an opening and closing statement.



Time to present!

Present your brief talk on **the value of linguistic diversity**.

Afterwards, your classmates and teachers can ask you some **follow up questions**.





End of the lesson

Idiom

to speak the same language

Meaning: to communicate easily with someone because you both share similar ideas and experiences (though you don't necessarily share a mother tongue).

Example: You and I, we speak the same language. Maybe it's because you also grew up in the nineties.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using the words in the red box.

- 1 _____ means speaking one language; _____ means knowing two.
- 2 Achieving _____ of a language is a challenge, and the process of _____ is hard.
- 3 One advantage of multilingualism is the ability to _____ in situations where many languages are being spoken.
- 4 The field of _____ explores the _____ of living and dead languages and sorts them into _____.

monolingualism
origins
language acquisition
mediate
mastery
historical linguistics
language families
bilingualism



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using the words in the red box.

- 1 Does language _____ how we see the world? The question of how far language impacts our _____ is fascinating.
- 2 _____ explores this _____ debate: does how we speak affect how we think?
- 3 _____ is the process by which we think and make choices.
- 4 My _____ has improved. I've learnt a lot of English and have a good _____ of the language, even its _____!

influence
linguistic relativity
linguistic ability
cognition
idioms
command
perception
abstract



Answer key

P.5: bilingual; mother tongue; command; perception; mediate

P.17: 1. monolingualism; bilingualism 2. mastery; language acquisition 3. mediate 4. historical linguistics; origins; language families

P.18: 1. influence; perception 2. Linguistic relativity; abstract 3. Cognition 4. linguistic ability; command; idioms



Summary

Linguistic diversity:

- multilingual community; language families; bilingual
- A lot of **communities** in Britain are **multilingual**.
- I grew up basically **bilingual**.

Idioms:

- *have butterflies in your stomach; your guess is as good as mine; cost an arm and a leg*
- *I **had butterflies in my stomach** before my meeting with the director.*
- *They haven't released the line-up yet, so **your guess is as good as mine!***
- *I don't want to eat anywhere that **costs an arm and a leg**.*



Vocabulary

bilingual

butterflies in your stomach

your guess is as good as mine

cost an arm and a leg

linguistic diversity

