

Introduction to the language of diplomats

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Upper-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3713X

LANGUAGE
English

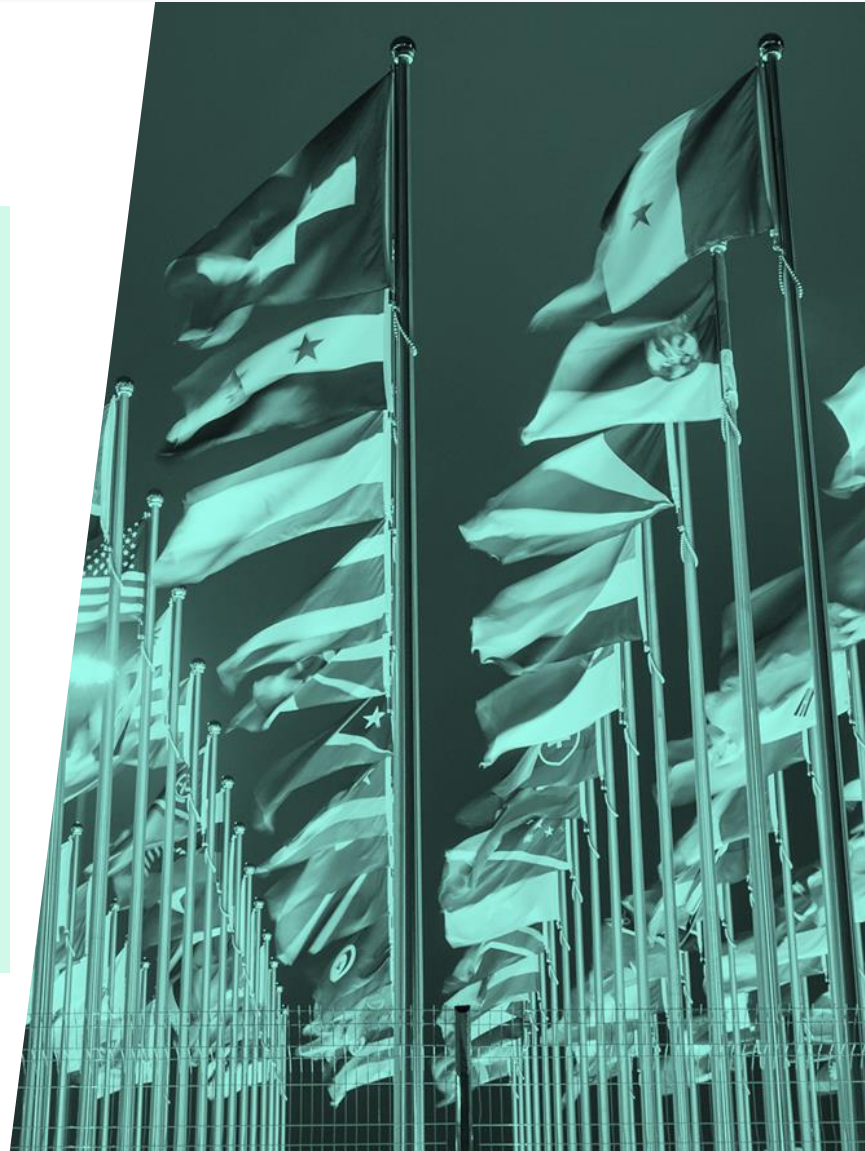
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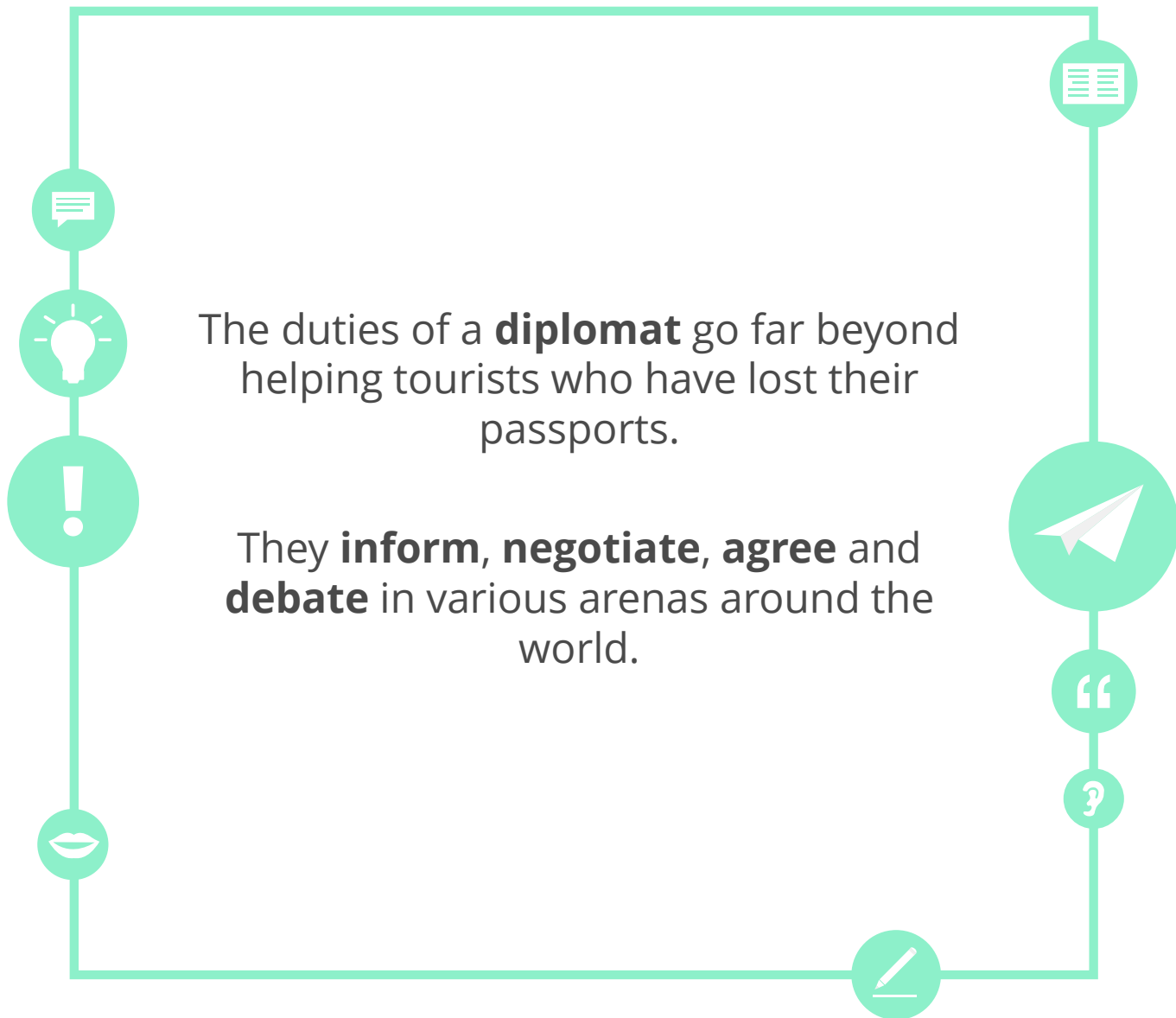




Goals

- Can understand common vocabulary associated with diplomacy and foreign affairs
- Can use new, persuasive phrases to express my own point of view in a debate







Preview and warm-up

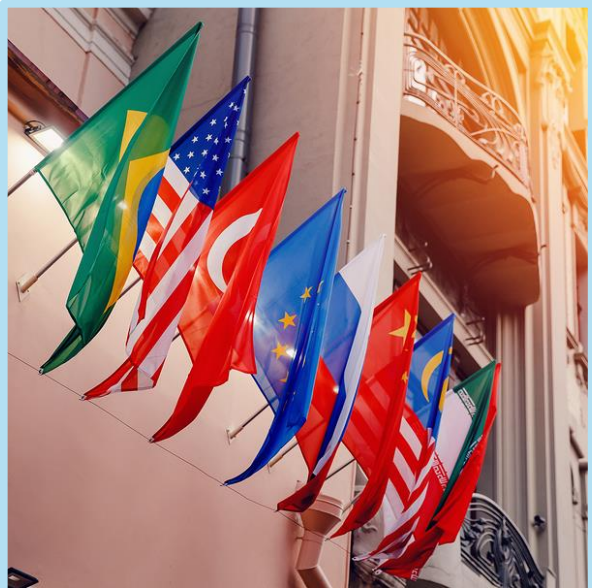
- In this lesson you are going to learn about the responsibilities of a **diplomat** and practise using **vocabulary** related to that role.



Diplomats often have to come to agreements with those in their **host country**.



Embassies



Have you ever **visited** an
embassy?

Why do people usually go there?



The role of a diplomat

Read through the text.

A diplomat is a person who represents the interests of their **home country** abroad. There are different levels of diplomats according to **seniority**, with the top position being held by the **ambassador**. When we think of diplomats, we often think of an ambassador – the main **representative** of their home country in a particular state or organisation.





The role of a diplomat

The mission of a diplomat is to form and maintain **international relations** in the spheres of economics and politics, as well as protecting their own citizens in overseas countries. They must work to positively advance the interests of their home nation and its people.





The role of a diplomat

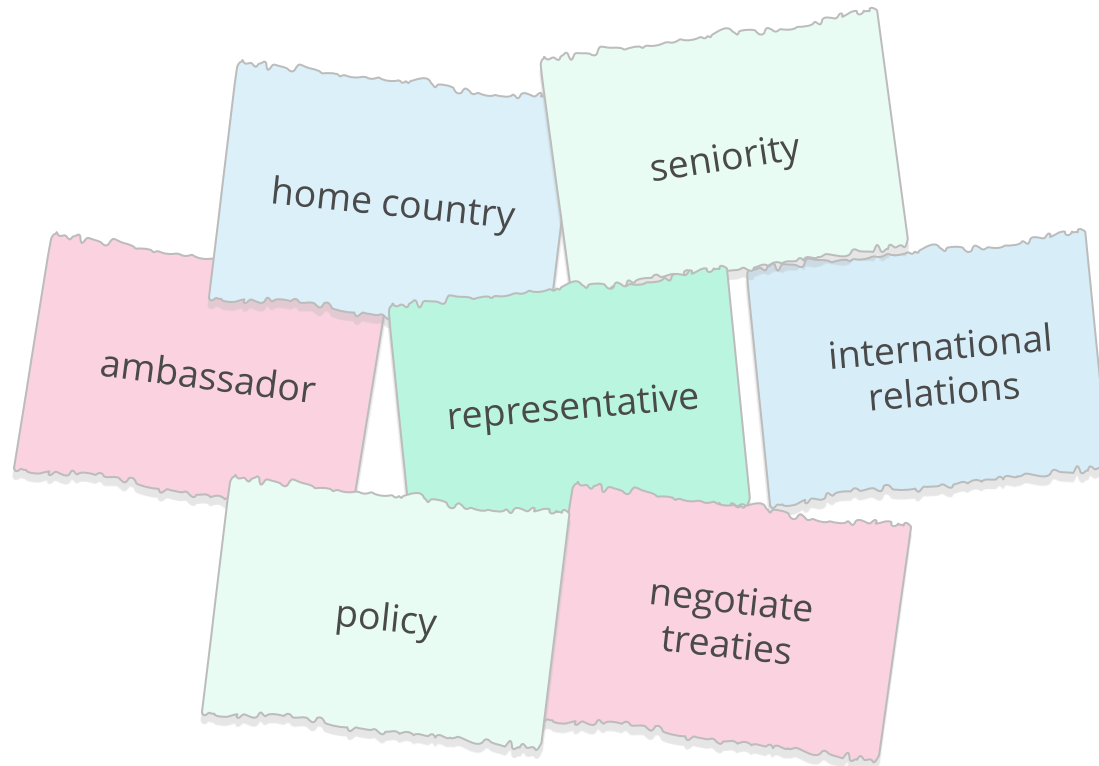
A diplomat also has the job of collecting information that could affect their home country and is often required to advise on **policy** issues relating to the host country. Part of their role is to **negotiate treaties** and agreements, which is crucial for both protecting the interests of their home country and for maintaining positive relations abroad. Meetings with high-level officials are common and can make the job quite stressful.





Vocabulary

How are these words and phrases related to the role of a diplomat?





Speaking

**What kind of things do
you think diplomats
negotiate the most
often?**

climate change

tariffs

immigration



The role of a diplomat

Now read more on the role of a diplomat.

Diplomats might work at home but most often are posted in another country, for example in an **embassy** or **consulate**, or in the **United Nations** offices in Geneva or New York. Usually, a diplomat spends three years in one country and then moves on; travel is a constant feature of diplomatic life.

Early in their careers, diplomats are often posted to a **developing country** where the environment might be quite different from that at home. The working environment is even more challenging for a diplomat who is sent to a war-torn country.





The role of a diplomat

As they move up the career ladder, diplomats are given assignments in more developed countries, or in countries of their choice. While the families of diplomats are **entitled** to go on assignment with them, the spouse may not be allowed to work in the destination country.

Overall, the job of a diplomat is a **well-respected** one and it is a highly **competitive** career to get into.





Speaking

Answer these questions with your teacher or classmates.



1

Do you know the difference between an embassy and a consulate? Discuss with your teacher.

2

How do you think working at the United Nations and working in an embassy would be different?

3

What would be the challenges of working in a developing country?





Speaking

What personal qualities and academic qualifications do you think are necessary to be a diplomat?





Diplomatic families

Do you think it would be difficult to be the spouse or child of a diplomat? What kind of challenges would they face?





Persuasion

- Diplomats need to **negotiate** and **persuade** their counterparts in order to **advance the interests** of their **home country**.

- **Be logical:** research and planning go a long way in being able to structure arguments effectively and in being able to discredit the arguments of others.
- **Be attentive:** if you are not listening to your opponent then you cannot argue back.
- **Be curious:** question facts, question why your counterpart believes what they do and ask rhetorical questions to enforce your point.
- **Be reasonable:** diplomats must remain calm and reasonable at all times.



Respect



- As mentioned on the previous page, **diplomats** must remain **polite** and **respectful** at all times.
- To help convey this respect, they should use **formal language** when speaking and writing.



Diplomats must always be aware that they are representing their country.



A review of formal language

- **Diplomats** should use **formal language** the majority of the time.
- Below is a short review of what formal language is and why it is especially **important** for diplomats.

do not use slang or colloquialisms	This is especially important when working abroad and talking to non-native speakers of your language or relying on interpreters.
avoid using /	Don't say <i>I want X to happen</i> , say <i>the country wants X to happen</i> . It is more formal and more accurate.
do not use provocative language	The language of diplomacy is formal and moderate. Don't say <i>your country is behaving terribly</i> , say <i>we are concerned about your country's recent actions</i> .



Politeness and respect

Why do you think it is so important for **diplomats** to be **polite** and **respectful**?

What could happen if they are not?





Diplomatic languages

Read through the text on the languages of the United Nations.

In the **United Nations**, there are **six official languages** and **two working languages**. The official languages are English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Russian and Arabic. The two working languages, into which every document must be translated, are English and French. In meetings between member nations, **interpreters** are always present so all diplomats hear proceedings in their **native tongue**. However, any diplomat working in the UN with any influence will speak English.



How important do you think it is for a diplomat to hear negotiations in their own language? How important is it for them to speak English?



Language for debating

- **Debating** is important to **diplomats** who are trying to **negotiate** a treaty or agreement.
- Below are some phrases to use when **presenting your point of view** in a debate as a diplomat.

In our opinion...

As far as we are concerned...

Speaking as a representative of the British government...

From the British point of view...

From our side...





Agreement and disagreement

- Diplomats also need to express **agreement** and **disagreement** politely during debates.
- Below are some phrases which can be used for this.

expressing agreement

- We share your view.
- You are absolutely right.
- We are in absolute agreement.
- That is acceptable/reasonable/fair.

expressing disagreement

- We take a different view.
- On the contrary...
- But, in fact...
- That is unacceptable/unreasonable/unfair.



Summarising

- At the end of a **diplomatic discussion**, it is important to **summarise** the **main points** and any **agreements** which have come out of the discussion.
- Below are some phrases which you can use to do this.

- To summarise what we heard today...
- So, we are in agreement about...
- To conclude, we have decided to...
- I'm glad we were able to come to a compromise on...





Make these sentences more diplomatic

1. I totally disagree with you.

→ We share similar opinions.

2. That's just not on.

→ _____

3. I am in agreement with you.

→ _____

4. In my view...

→ _____

5. Let's go over what we said today again.

→ _____



Imagine you're a diplomat

You are going to have a debate with your teacher or one of your classmates. One of you is a diplomat from a neighbouring country. You are concerned about the pollution from factories in your host country, which is affecting air quality in your home country.

- The diplomat's country buys products produced in the polluting factories.
- The host country is not as wealthy as the diplomat's home country.





Role play

**Now role play a discussion between the diplomat and a minister.
Remember to use polite and formal language.**

Levels of
pollution are
unacceptable.



That is an
unreasonable
demand.

**Student A: You are the
diplomat.**

**Student B or teacher: You
are a minister in the host
country.**



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p. 13 Question 1:

An embassy is where is ambassador works from. There is only one embassy and one ambassador in a country. A consulate is where a consul works from – they are not quite as important or powerful as the ambassador. There can be several consulates in a country and there may be consulates in countries where there is no embassy.





Challenges

Which of these aspects of the job do you consider to be the most challenging for a diplomat?





Writing

**Imagine you are writing for a careers website. You need to create an entry about being a diplomat.
Write about what being a diplomat entails and what kind of people would be suitable for the profession.**

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