

A grayscale background image of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a patterned top, holding and reading a book. The image is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the text overlay.

E-TALKING
BEST
FOR YOU

How Language Changes Our Personalities

A Different Personality For Each Language

[view](#)



INTRODUCTION

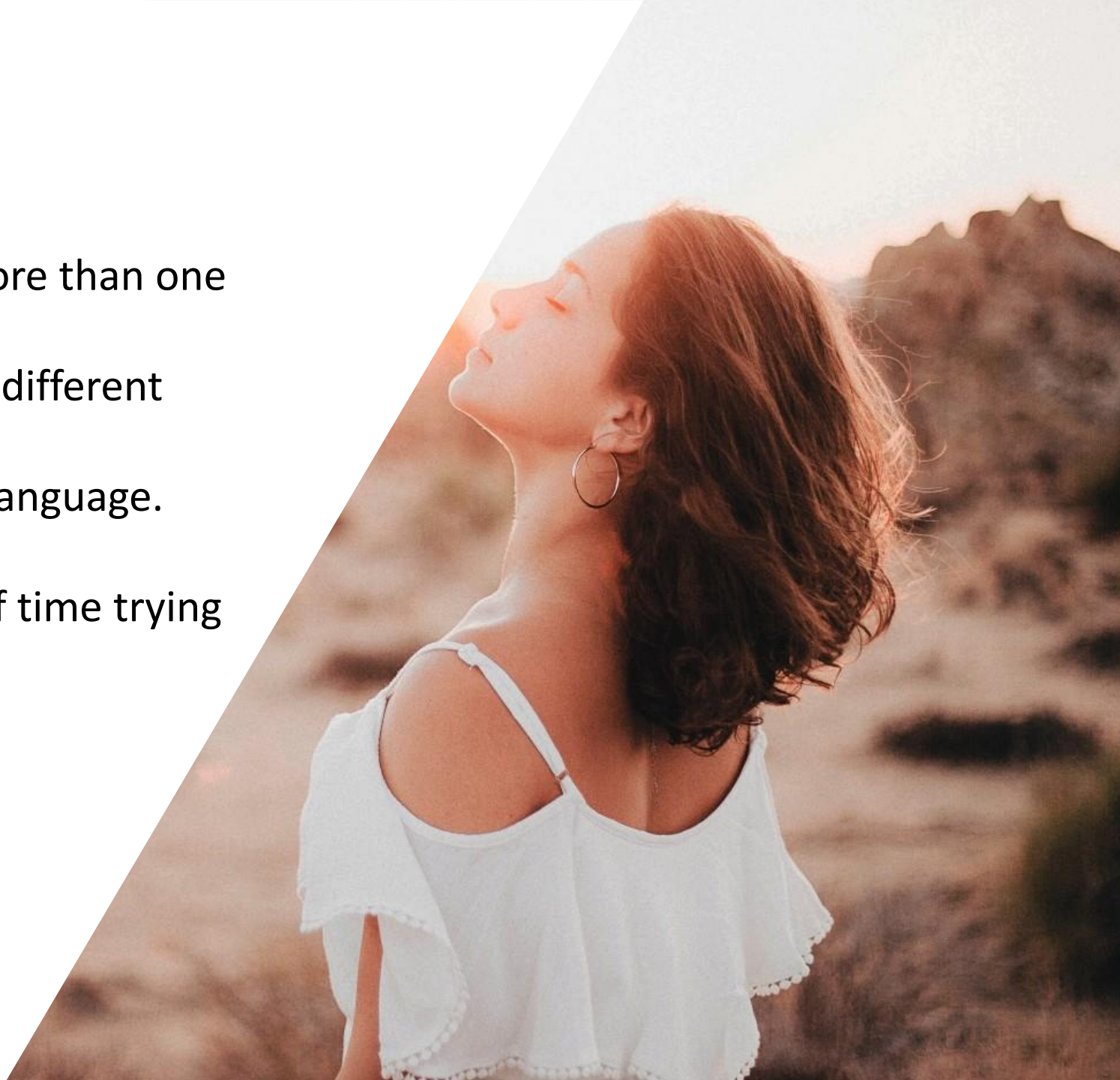
CEFR Learning Goal:

Talk about people's success / routes to success

People who can speak more than one language often feel like a different person speaking in each language.

Researchers spent a lot of time trying to prove this is true.

START



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VOCABULARY

Lets check whether you know each following word.



Fluent (noun) able to use a language naturally

Personality (noun) the way you are as a person

Analysis (noun) the process of analyzing something

Bilinguals (noun) people using or able to speak two languages

Participants (noun) a person who takes part in or becomes involved in a particular activity

Scene (noun) a view or picture of a place, event, or activity

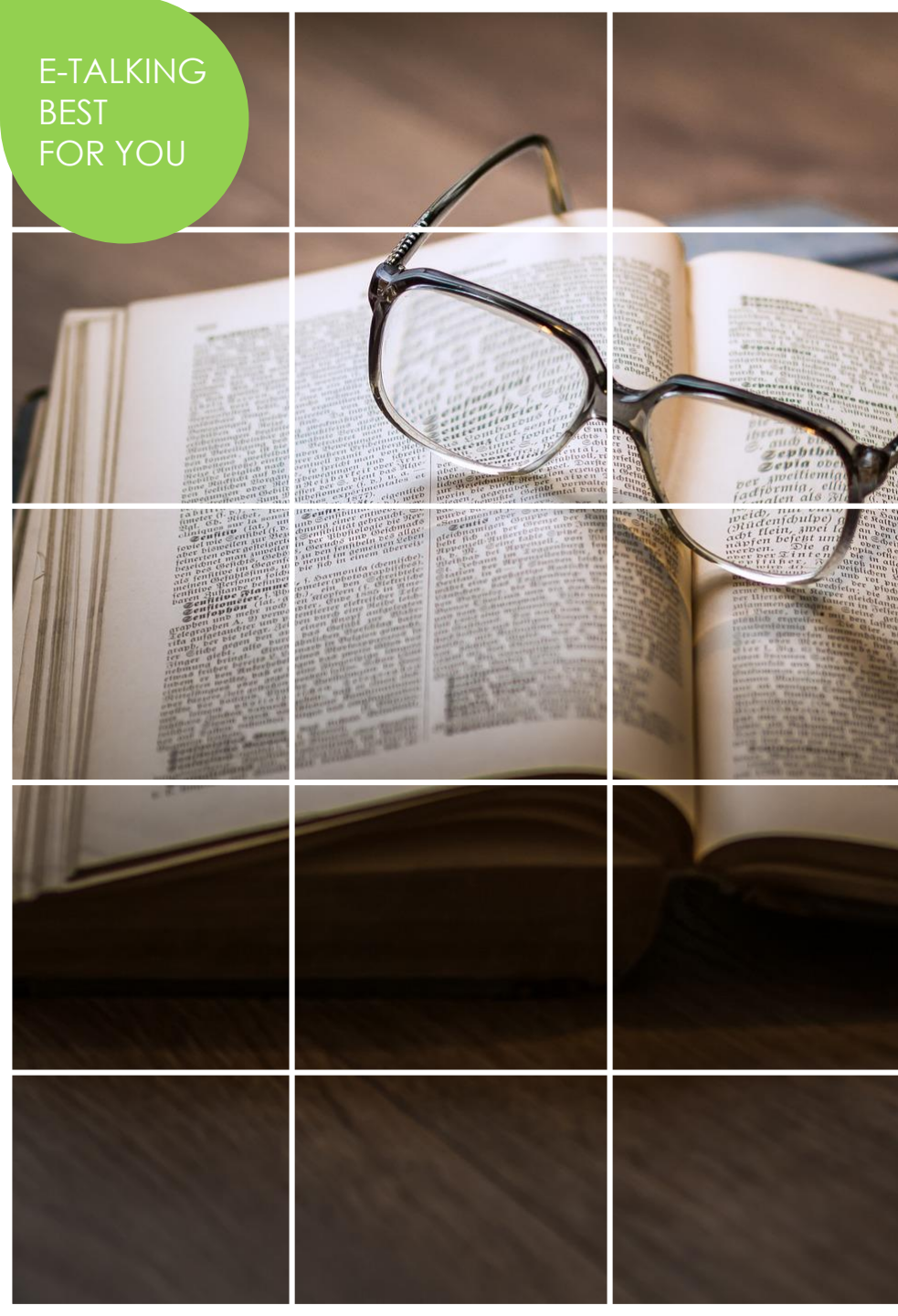
Vocabulary

Personality Research

People **fluent** in more than one language often notice a **personality** change when they speak each language. Researchers completed an **analysis** of over a thousand **bilinguals** in 2003. Nearly two-thirds of the people involved said they felt different while speaking each language. People acted very differently in each language. Sometimes, people even became more confident in their second language.

Differences in Speaking French or English

In 1964, Susan Ervin, a language researcher wanted to see how bilinguals tell the same story in two different languages. She asked 64 people who were fluent in French and English to take her test. She gave her **participants** three pictures and asked them to make up a three minute story for each **scene**. She looked at the work and found some interesting differences. The English stories paid a lot of attention to female success, angry behavior toward parents, and ways to stay away from blame. The French stories paid a lot of attention to guilt, and angry behavior towards friends.





DISCUSSION

If a researcher compared how people tell a story in your language
and in English, what differences do you think they will find?

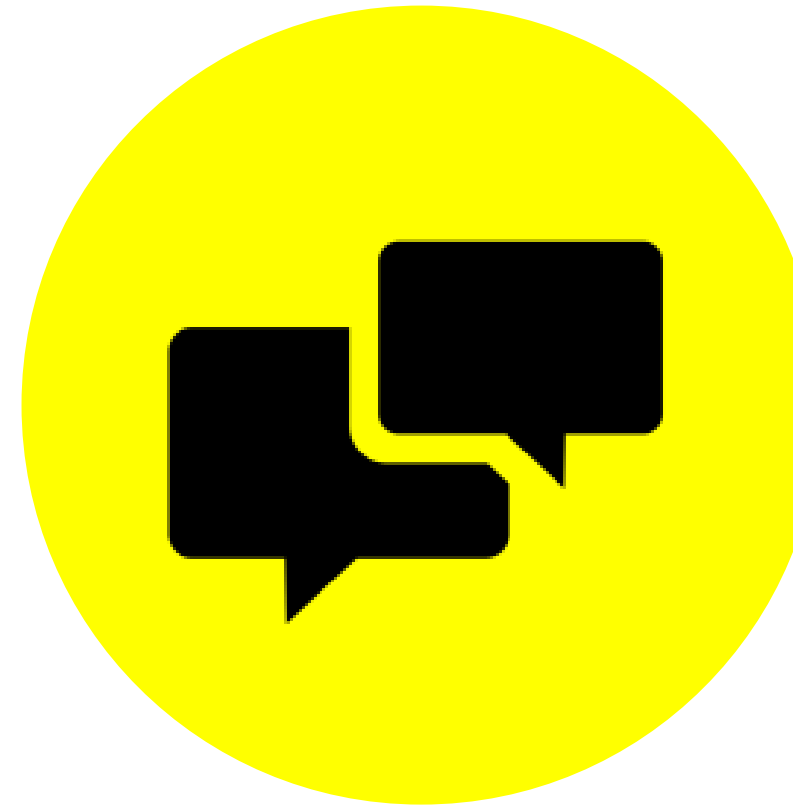
REVIEW DISCUSSION

Think about someone who speaks different languages.

How do they act while speaking each language?

Do you notice any differences in their tone of voice, body language, behavior, level of confidence, etc.

Do you think you act differently when you speak English compared to when you speak your own language?





SPEAKING TASK

How many languages can you speak?

What do you like most about learning a new language?

Tell your partner about a time you acted different while speaking English. How do you think successful language learners act differently in each language?



ASSESSMENT

Complete the sentences using the vocabulary words

from this lesson:

**scene / participants / analysis / bilingual / fluent /
personality**

1. Kay is so nice. She has an awesome ____ .
2. He lived in Spain for 10 years. He is now ____ in Spanish.
3. My cousin Kay speaks English, and Chinese. She is ____.
4. I worked on my research for three years. I am sure about my ____
5. I got 100 people to answer questions for my research paper. The ____
helped me a lot.
6. The picture shows two people getting killed, it is a very violent ____.



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Thank you !

