

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY INDEX

People often talk about English as a *lingua franca*. More than 350 million people around the world speak English as their first language and over 900 million speak it as a second language.

Education First (EF) is an international education company in the USA. It produced English Proficiency Index (EPI) in 2011. It ranks how well non-native English speakers can speak the language in their countries.

In the most recent edition of the EF index for the Asian region, Singapore ranks 1st – its EPI score is 611. Second is the Philippines with an EPI score of 562. Việt Nam ranks 13th with an EPI score of 473.

In Việt Nam, the development of most aspects requires better English. More people are interested in learning English. Hopefully, the EPI in Việt Nam will be higher in the years to come.



DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?



- 1 1.24 Read and listen to the text and complete the table.

Ranks in Asia	EPI score	Countries
1
.....	the Philippines
.....	473

- 2 Read the text again and write *True or False*.

- More than a billion people speak English in the world.
- EF produced the first EPI in 2020.
- Recently, the EPI score of Việt Nam is higher than that of the Philippines.
- With an EPI score of 611, Singapore ranks the first in the world.
- More and more Vietnamese people enjoy learning English.

- 3 YOUR CULTURE Work in groups. Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- When do you often speak English?
- Do you speak English with your parents?
- What do you use English for?
- How well do you think you speak English?
- Do you intend to study abroad? Where? Do people there speak English?

- 4 USE IT! Use your answers from exercise 3 to write a text (60–80 words) describing your use of English in daily life.