

Multilingualism

Live from Geneva podcasts

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Level: Intermediate and above
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30-45 minutes
Language and skills: listening for gist; matching speakers; grammar



Warmer

1. Ask the students to look at the answer and predict what question the people were asked. Then ask the students to talk to a partner, ask them the question and note down the answer. You might want to see who speaks the most languages in your class.

Key:

How many languages do you speak?

Listening

2. Tell the students that they are going to hear seven people answering the question and talking about why it's important to speak more than one language. Ask them to listen and find out which of the people speaks the most languages. Tell them not to worry about understanding everything. Play the recording through once and then ask pairs to discuss their answers together, before checking as a class.

Key:

Speaker 1 speaks four languages, plus he can 'get by' in Spanish.

3. Ask the students to look at the phrases (1-5). Tell them that you will play the recording again and that they should match the phrase to the correct speaker. Point out that they need to listen to the meaning as the exact words used are not the same as the ones on the worksheet. Also, point out that there are no matches for speakers 3 and 7.

Play the recording and then encourage the students to check their answers in pairs. Monitor, and play the recording again if necessary. Then, check the answers in pairs.

Key:

Speaker 1: c; Speaker 2: e; Speaker 4: a; Speaker 5: d; Speaker 6: b

4. Ask the students to look at the sentences and see if they can remember if they are true (T) or false (F). Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas.

Next, play the recording and ask the students to check their answers. Put them in pairs once more and get them to discuss their answers together and correct the ones they think are false. Finally, check the answers as a class.

Key:

1. F (he's Italian); 2. T; 3. F (he speaks a little bit); 4. T; 5. F (she's English); 6. F (three – English, French and German); 7. T

Vocabulary

5. Ask the students to read the sentences and to look at the underlined words. Then ask them to choose the best definition (a, b or c) for each underlined word. Encourage the students to work in pairs and discuss their ideas. Monitor, and help where necessary. Check the answers as a class and discuss any that they aren't sure about.

Key:

1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. a; 5. c; 6. b

Language

6. Ask the students to look at the six excerpts from the transcript and try to complete them using the words (conjunctions) in the box. Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas. Tell them to think about the meaning and why a particular word / conjunction is used.

Monitor, and help where necessary. Check the answers as a class and discuss any that the students aren't sure about.

Key:

1. but; 2. so / as; 3. and; 4. because; 5. or; 6. if

Speaking

7. Put the students into groups and ask them to discuss the four questions. Monitor, then have a short class discussion at the end.

Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's *Live from ...* series of authentic interviews. Today, the onestopenglish reporters are in Geneva, Switzerland, where they talk to locals and visitors about multilingualism.

Speaker 1 (Male, Italian American)

Well let me see ... German, Italian, French, English ... I can get by in Spanish because of Italian. I like languages; I study them for fun. I'm teaching myself Japanese, believe it or not. But I also think we should all speak one common second language – and that one should be Spanish. It's the easiest language to learn – even easier than Italian, and I'm Italian!

Speaker 2 (Female, French)

Three. English, French and a little bit of Spanish. Err ... it's important to be able to talk with other people and err ... erm ... can discuss and err ... and share your opinions with, err, other populations.

Speaker 3 (Male, Swiss)

So, I speak French as my mother tongue. I speak English and a little bit of German ... err ... and I think that ... err, speaking different languages is very important because you ... when you want to travel or do anything else nowadays, it's just, err ... essential. You cannot do anything if you do not speak at least two languages, yes.

Speaker 4 (Female, South African)

Err, I speak erm ... two languages, English and Afrikaans – I'm from South Africa. Erm, I'm holidaying in this region. Err, I speak a smattering of French, I'm busy learning the language. And I think it's very important to try and speak more than one language because it broadens the scope of your interests. You're able to speak to French people. There are parts of Switzerland and other countries in the world where they speak French and, of course English is an international language – so yes I do think it's important to speak more than one language.

Speaker 5 (Female, British)

Erm ... I speak two languages. I'm English and I also speak French ... because I live in France. I think it's very important to speak the language because it enables people to join in in their local community ... and ... to ... show the people that you're serious about being part of the village or the town where you live.

Speaker 6 (Male, Swiss)

How many languages do I speak? Err, I do my best to speak English, my native language is French and I can speak err ... decent, err ... German. And, err ... is it important to know foreign languages? Yes, I think today it's essential and, err ... for young people I think they even have a hard time to find a job if they don't speak foreign languages. So, it's amazing now how many young people, how many languages they can speak, so it's not anymore that you need to speak maybe another one, you ... everyone should probably be able to speak at least three, err, if not four.

Speaker 7 (Male, British)

Err, in terms of speaking, err ... a foreign language, I, I speak, err ... English as my main, main language of course ... and French. Now, I think it's very important. You can get more out of life, more out of your travels, if you speak another language. And it also can present, err, good job opportunities to somebody who speaks a foreign language. So, yes. A very big yes. I think it's important to speak another language, other than your native language.



Warmer

1. Look at the answer in the box. What question do you think the people were asked?

Three. English, French and a little bit of Spanish.



Listening

2. Listen. Which person can speak the most languages?

3. Listen and match each piece of information with the correct speaker.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Speaker 1 | a. ... is learning French at the moment. |
| Speaker 2 | b. ... thinks you need to speak languages to help you get a job. |
| Speaker 4 | c. ... likes learning languages. |
| Speaker 5 | d. ... thinks speaking the local language helps you be part of the place you live. |
| Speaker 6 | e. ... enjoys sharing her ideas. |

4. Listen for a third time. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Speaker 1 is Spanish. | T / F |
| 2. Speaker 2 can speak some Spanish. | T / F |
| 3. Speaker 3 doesn't speak any German. | T / F |
| 4. Speaker 4 is on holiday. | T / F |
| 5. Speaker 5 is French. | T / F |
| 6. Speaker 6 can speak four languages. | T / F |
| 7. Speaker 7's first language is English. | T / F |

Vocabulary

5. Look at the underlined words in these sentences and choose the correct definition.

- ... we should all speak one common second language ...
 - happening frequently
 - shared by two or more people
 - ordinary, with no special status
- ... speaking different languages is ... just, err, essential ...
 - completely necessary
 - interesting
 - not important

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3. I speak a smattering of French.
 - a. really good
 - b. a particular type / dialect
 - c. a small amount of something
4. It's very important to try and speak more than one language because it broadens the scope of your interests.
 - a. the number or range
 - b. an exciting opportunity or story
 - c. a small piece
5. My native language is French and I can speak, err ... decent German.
 - a. honest or fair
 - b. a choice you make after careful thought
 - c. good or good enough
6. If you speak another language ... it can also present, err, good job opportunities ...
 - a. show something to be official
 - b. to create or cause something
 - c. to offer something for people to consider or look at



Language

6. Complete the extracts from the listening with the words in the box.

and as because but if or so

1. I like languages; I study them for fun. ... _____ I also think we should all speak one common second language ...
2. _____, I speak French _____ my mother tongue.
3. There are parts of ... the world where they speak French _____, of course English is an international language.
4. I'm English and I also speak French ... _____ I live in France.
5. ... to ... show the people that you're serious about being part of the village _____ the town where you live.
6. You can get more out of life, more out of your travels, _____ you speak another language.

Speaking

7. Work in groups and discuss the following questions.

- Which of you can speak the most languages?
- Why are you learning English?
- 'Learning a language is fun' – do you agree? Why? Why not?
- 'It's essential to speak more than one language' – do you agree? Why? Why not?