

Listening

Listen to a presentation on English as an Instrument for International Trade Facilitation. Fill in the gaps in the following text. Write one word and/or a number.

English & International Trade

Today, English is used in different social **1** _____, such as school, government, family and workplace.

Approximately **2** _____ percent of all information on the Internet is in English.

In the national curriculum of many countries of the world such as Norway and Thailand, English is a (an) **3** _____ subject .

Prospect students need English language **4** _____ to enter most world universities.

To apply for a job in many international and national companies, an applicant is expected to submit a certificate in **5** _____ English.

Among the leading industries where English is required more than in others are the semiconductor sector, logistics and foreign **6** _____.

When involved in trade operations with foreign countries, businesspeople can encounter such problems as different time zones, **7** _____ systems, cultural values and lexical gaps.

Growing business activity and a greater number of international trade agreements mean higher trade **8** _____ and better economic development.

Metaphorically, English is seen as a **9** _____ force pulling exporters and importers towards each other.

Tapescript

You are all aware of the fact that at present, English is a communication tool in diverse domains of the society such as education, government, business and finance, medicine, entertainment and media.

There are 86 out of 195 countries which have English as their official language, either primary or secondary. Around 56% of all websites on the World Wide Web are in English. Google service instantly translates web pages from over 100 world languages into English, free of charge.

English is a compulsory or optional part of national school curricula in 142 countries. Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Ireland are countries with dominance of English in all spheres of life including school education. In most countries, English is a mandatory subject in compulsory school, for example, Norway, India, Kazakhstan, Spain, Argentina, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Botswana, and so on. In some countries, it can be compulsory in some grades and optional in others, e.g, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Russia, Brazil, Japan, etc.

Universities all around the world ask prospect students for evidence of their English language competence as most of the colleges provide a variety of courses in English to prepare students for a better career and life. Students are expected to have an ability to use this language for different purposes and in different situations such as work and every-day communication, travelling and personal development, study and search of information.

As for the job market, there are plenty of multinational companies with subsidiaries based in foreign lands, as well as national enterprises, whose common job requirement is a certificate in English, mainly Business English Certificate at levels B1 and B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

According to researchers, the requirement for English competence is constantly growing, especially in such industries as IT, Game and Entertainment, hi-tech, hotel and catering industry, energy, chemical and engineering sphere; with logistics, semiconductor industry and foreign trade taking the top positions.

Trade has always been determined by communication and culture. Countries are not only located in different time zones and have discrepancies in measuring time, they also have different metric systems when measuring weights, volumes, degrees, distances, heights and so on. Due to various geographical areas of habitat

and predominant terrain type, environment and weather patterns, people tend to view the world differently and very often have certain gaps in their native language for the description of cultural realia, authentic objects, rare and unique items and specimens typical of other cultures.

Consequently, if two distantly located nations could speak one language that was capable of covering those gaps, trade between them would grow consistently and intensively, since inter-state communication would be facilitated and supported by one common linguistic code. Studies show that countries where people speak a common language have a trade volume that is about two times higher than that of the countries whose languages differ. Higher trade volumes imply a growing number of trade agreements, business operations, increasing positive cash flow and brighter prospects for economic and social development. Thus, language works as the gravitational force that pulls the trading parties towards each other and contributes to their well-being and prosperity.

Answers:

1. domains
2. 56
3. mandatory
4. competence
5. business
6. trade
7. metric
8. volumes
9. gravitational