

# 4

# Language

## In this unit

### Grammar

- future forms
- first conditional

### Vocabulary

- language learning
- phrasal verbs (2)
- allow, permit, let

### Scenario

- Language training

### Study skills

- describing tables and charts

### Writing skills

- a report

## 4.1 LEARNING LANGUAGES



*A different language is a different vision of life.*  
Federico Fellini, 1920–1992, Italian film-maker

### VOCABULARY: language learning

1 Work with a partner. Discuss how similar you think these activities are to learning a language.

driving a car   playing a musical instrument  
playing/doing a dangerous sport   painting/drawing  
dancing the tango, waltz, etc.   playing a board game  
(e.g. backgammon, chess, Monopoly)

*Learning to drive a car is similar because you need to practise a lot.*

2 What sort of people do you think make the best language learners?

3 Complete the statements with the words in the box. Which ideas do you agree with?

bilingual   native   slang   accent  
foreign   grammar   dialects

- Organised and logical people find it easy to learn \_\_\_\_\_ rules.
- Musical people find it easy to develop a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- Extroverts find it easy to communicate in their \_\_\_\_\_ language and so often find it easy to learn to speak a \_\_\_\_\_ language fluently.
- Flexible people can adapt to different \_\_\_\_\_ (the way a language is spoken in different areas).

- People who are \_\_\_\_\_ already know two languages so learning one more is very easy.
- Learners of languages should make an effort to learn informal phrases, everyday expressions and even \_\_\_\_\_.

### READING

4a Look at the text opposite about language learning. Where does it come from? What is its purpose?

4b Read the text quickly. Who is it aimed at?

- foreign language speakers
- native English speakers
- people who want to speak English as a foreign language
- business people

4c Read the text again. Are these sentences true, false or not given?

- You will receive a certificate at the end of the course.
- There are exams to check your progress during the course.
- English is one of the languages offered.
- You will become fluent in six weeks.
- There are support materials in English.



**VOCABULARY: phrasal verbs (2)**

5a Look at the phrasal verbs highlighted in the text and match them with their meanings below.

- 1 make as much progress as others
- 2 learn easily
- 3 understand
- 4 make less progress than other people
- 5 survive
- 6 disappoint/fail
- 7 start doing something, e.g. a new activity

5b Complete the sentences about your English studies. Compare your answers with a partner.

- 1 I can get by in \_\_\_\_\_ (language) when I am abroad.
- 2 I would like to stop learning English and take up \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 I catch on quickly when my teacher \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 It took me \_\_\_\_\_ (weeks/months/years) to pick up the basics of \_\_\_\_\_.

- 5 I find it difficult to keep up with my work/homework because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The aspect of my English which lets me down is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 I'm falling behind in \_\_\_\_\_. I'm going to have to work hard to catch up.

**SPEAKING**

6 Work with a partner to discuss the following.

- 1 English is an international language because it is easy to learn.
- 2 Language is the most important part of cultural identity.
- 3 Everyone should learn at least one foreign language.
- 4 A government has a duty to protect its country's language.
- 5 The world would be a better place if everyone spoke the same language.

## not only English Spoken Here!

- Do your foreign language skills **let you down** when you travel abroad?
- Are you **falling behind** in your career?
- Would you like to make new friends?
- Do you want to learn about other cultures?

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