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# INGLÊS

**Instrução:** Responda às questões de números 1 a 20 com base no seguinte texto:

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## THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

By Mark Worden

1 The Germans, the French and other nationalities probably don't envy many things about the  
2 English, but they do envy their language. They believe, quite rightly that, if you are a native English  
3 speaker, then you don't have to worry about learning a foreign language. Yet according to an article in a  
4 London paper, FINANCIAL TIMES, by Quentin Peel ("The Monotony of the Monoglotian", 8<sup>th</sup> January  
5 2001), they should think again.

6 Quentin Peel believes that being monolingual in the modern world is not such a good thing and  
7 this, we hope, will provide encouragement to our readers! Peel writes:

8 "The triumph of the English language in the world trade, technology, culture and science, thanks  
9 to the overwhelming predominance of America in all those areas, may yet prove to be more of a curse  
10 than a blessing for those of us who speak it as a mother tongue.

11 Of course it is a wonderful convenience. We do not have to struggle with all those tiresome  
12 foreign languages that others still insist on preserving. We dominate the airwaves, thanks to CNN and  
13 BBC and even Deutsche Welle broadcasting in English. English is the first language of computers and  
14 Internet, just as it is of finance, diplomacy, popular music and the cinema. What else matters?

15 Where once the working language of the EU was overwhelmingly French, today it is far more  
16 often English (thanks, ironically, to the advent of the Scandinavians). It is enough to make General de  
17 Gaulle turn in his grave.

18 A senior American diplomat told me last week that he could conduct the affairs of state in English  
19 almost anywhere in the world, except in the more remote parts of Latin America and the former Soviet  
20 Union. It certainly saves on interpreters' expenses.

21 What worries me, however, is the consequent collapse of language learning in many parts of the  
22 English-speaking world. Precisely because it is no longer perceived as necessary and useful, the study  
23 of foreign languages is in danger of being relegated to the same scrap heap of irrelevance as the study  
24 of classical Latin and Greek.

25 The English-speaking world has got itself into a dreadful bind. We think that we understand what  
26 makes other people tick – but only if they tell us in English. That removes all the subtlety and also the  
27 incentive to understand their idiom, their culture and their peculiarities. A monoglot world is a world of the  
28 CNN sound bite. (...)

29 If you are British, sitting uncomfortably on the edge of a proudly and persistently polyglot  
30 continent, it is both dangerous and perverse. It makes all those continental neighbours much more  
31 difficult to comprehend. We really do not understand their culture and their history and their thinking,  
32 because we cannot be bothered to learn their language".

**Adapted from *Speak Up*, n. 168, p. 6-7, 2001.**

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### Glossary

- 1) overwhelming – massiva, demasiada
- 2) curse - maldição
- 3) blessing – bênção
- 4) to struggle – lutar, fazer força
- 5) broadcasting – transmissão

- 6) grave – túmulo
- 7) scrap heap – monturo, refugo
- 8) dreadful bind – beco sem saída perigoso
- 9) tick – funcionar
- 10) subtlety – sutileza
- 11) trade - comércio

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1) The text – **The Language Barrier** – was picked up from

- A) a newspaper.
  - B) the Internet.
  - C) a book.
  - D) a magazine.
  - E) an encyclopaedia.
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2) The main purpose of the text is

- A) advising the Germans and other nationalities about the danger of being monolingual.
  - B) advising the CNN and BBC about the danger of being monolingual.
  - C) advising the English-speaking world about the danger of being monolingual.
  - D) advising Deutsche Welle about the danger of being monolingual.
  - E) advising Latin and Greek-speaking world about the danger of being monolingual.
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3) The area of knowledge in evidence in this text is

- A) Communication.
  - B) Health.
  - C) Literature.
  - D) Industry.
  - E) Geography.
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4) According to the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) paragraph, speaking English as a native language may prove to have

- A) great advantage.
  - B) slight advantage.
  - C) more advantage than disadvantage.
  - D) more disadvantage than advantage.
  - E) as much disadvantage as advantage.
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5) Considering the information in the text, which pair doesn't match?

- A) Quentin Peel – Financial Times
  - B) Mark Worden – writer
  - C) General De Gaulle – BBC
  - D) CNN sound bite – monoglot world
  - E) Deutsche Welle – Germans
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6) According to the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) paragraph we may say:

- A) French is overwhelming English.
  - B) English is overwhelming French.
  - C) English and French are overwhelming languages.
  - D) French is no more spoken.
  - E) English is the only working language.
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7) What can we conclude after reading the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) paragraph?

- A) English is spoken everywhere.
  - B) English isn't spoken anywhere
  - C) English is spoken nowhere.
  - D) English is spoken somewhere.
  - E) English is spoken almost everywhere.
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8) "Financial Times" (line 4) is

- A) an American newspaper.
  - B) a German newspaper.
  - C) a French newspaper.
  - D) a British newspaper.
  - E) a Brazilian newspaper.
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9) According to the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) paragraph:

- A) If we don't speak the language of a country it is impossible to understand its culture and peculiarities.
- B) If we don't understand the culture and peculiarities of a country we can't speak its language.
- C) If a language of a country, its culture and peculiarities are not understood by us it is impossible to travel.
- D) If we speak our mother tongue it is possible to understand the language, culture and peculiarities of the other countries.
- E) If we can't understand the culture and peculiarities of our mother tongue we understand the language of the other countries.

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10) Complete the right column with the **OPPOSITE** information on the left column.

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. mother tongue | ( ) last             |
| 2. often         | ( ) dreadful         |
| 3. wonderful     | ( ) foreign language |
| 4. hardly        | ( ) popular          |
| 5. classical     |                      |
| 6. today         |                      |
| 7. first         |                      |
| 8. solitary      |                      |

- A) 8 – 7 – 6 – 5
- B) 7 – 8 – 5 – 4
- C) 5 – 7 – 8 – 1
- D) 6 – 4 – 3 – 7
- E) 7 – 3 – 1 – 5

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11) The structure used in the sentence "...prove to be **more** of a curse **than** a blessing..." (lines 9 - 10) is

- A) Superlative Form.
- B) Imperative Form.
- C) Comparative Form.
- D) Interrogative Form.
- E) Negative Form.

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12) The lexical item "it" (line 11) refers to

- A) culture.
- B) America.
- C) curse.
- D) English language.
- E) blessing.

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13) The auxiliary verb "should" (line 5) indicates

- A) permission.
- B) advice.
- C) possibility.
- D) obligation.
- E) request.

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14) The best equivalent, in Portuguese, to the sentence "...It certainly saves on interpreters' expenses." (line 20) is

- A) Poupa despesas com intérpretes, com certeza.
- B) Salva as despesas dos intérpretes, com certeza.
- C) Poupa os intérpretes das despesas, com certeza.
- D) Poupa as despesas dos intérpretes, com certeza.
- E) Salva os intérpretes das despesas com certeza.

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15) Which of the words below is formed by a Prefix?

- A) tiresome
- B) monolingual
- C) airwaves
- D) broadcasting
- E) anywhere

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**16)** The English-speaking world **has got** itself into a dreadful bind.” (line 25). Which is the Verbal Tense of this sentence?

- A)** Present Continuous Tense
- B)** Future Perfect Tense
- C)** Present Perfect Continuous Tense
- D)** Present Perfect Tense
- E)** Past Perfect Tense

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**17)** In the sentence “...the former Soviet Union.” (lines 19 - 20), instead of the word “former” we can use

- A)** foremost.
- B)** forehead.
- C)** front.
- D)** previous.
- E)** before.

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**18)** The words “encouragement” (line 7) and “understand” (line 27) are classified as

- A)** Noun / Verb.
- B)** Preposition / Conjunction.
- C)** Adjective / Adverb.
- D)** Pronoun / Auxiliary Verb.
- E)** Noun / Noun.

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**19)** The words “overwhelming” (line 9) and “overwhelmingly” (line 15) are, respectively, used as

- A)** Noun / Adverb.
- B)** Adjective / Adverb.
- C)** Adjective / Adjective.
- D)** Verb / Adverb.
- E)** Adjective / Verb.

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**20)** The Conjunction “but” (line 2) suggests

- A)** addition.
- B)** condition.
- C)** contrast.
- D)** doubt.
- E)** consequence.