



全国优秀教材二等奖

普通高中教科书

英语

ENGLISH

必修

第一册

人民教育出版社

UNIT

5

LANGUAGES
AROUND
THE WORLD

One language sets you in a
corridor for life. Two languages
open every door along the way.

—Frank Smith

In this unit, you will

- 1 read about the development of Chinese characters and students' difficulties in learning English.
- 2 listen to a speech about learning foreign languages and talk about reasons why people study a foreign language.
- 3 write a blog about language study.
- 4 learn about the history of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Look and discuss

- 1 Do you know where the photo was taken?
- 2 Which languages do you think are officially used here?

Write a blog about English study

- 1 Read these posts from an online forum for Chinese students who are learning English and fill in the table on page 67.

Learning English



login

sign up



Wang Le

Hey, everybody, what are your biggest problems with learning English?



Liu Wen

Hi! I've been studying English since primary school. I used to get high marks in English, but now I'm having a lot of trouble with my listening. When I listen to native English speakers talking in a video, I can catch only a few words. I can never quite get the main idea. Any advice?

2 2 1



Jia Xin

Listening to English radio programmes helps me get used to how fast native speakers talk. I also repeat what I hear to help myself to experience the feeling of the language. Sometimes I even record my voice so I can listen to myself and compare my pronunciation with the radio host's! My biggest headache is how to be polite in English. It's so much easier to just say "Open the window!", but in English that can sound really terrible. I have to think about who I'm talking to and then decide whether to say, "Open the window, please!" or "Could you open the window, please?" or even longer "Would you mind opening the window, please?"

0 0 2



Li Rui

Yeah, that's really hard! I think it all depends on who you're talking to. If I'm talking to a close friend, I can use short requests, like "Open the window"—our relationship is close and we're **equals**, so I only need a few words to bridge the **gap** between us. But if I'm talking to someone who isn't very close to me, I must make my request longer—and I must make it a question, not a **demand**, e.g., "Could you open the window, please?" If I'm talking to someone senior to me, then I should say, "Would you mind opening the window, please?" For me, **vocabulary** is my biggest problem—there are just SO MANY new words! I can't keep all the new vocabulary straight in my head, and I certainly can't remember how to use them all properly. HELP!

4 0 0

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ... 12 >

Name	Problem	Advice
Liu Wen		Jia Xin's advice Listen to English radio programmes.
Jia Xin		Li Rui's advice
Li Rui		Your advice

2 Work in groups. List your problems in learning English and brainstorm some useful advice.

- I don't know how to ...
- ... is a big difficulty for me.
- I cannot ...
- I have no idea how/what ...
- My biggest problem is ...
- I (also) have trouble with ...
- You might try ...
- My advice is ...
- It's very important to ...
- This worked for me.

Problem	Advice
I cannot understand the teacher's English in class.	

3 Choose one of the problems from your group discussion and write a blog about it.

- 1 Describe the problem clearly.
- 2 Write one or two ideas on how to solve the problem.
- 3 Exchange drafts. Assess each other's work according to the checklist.

General content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Does the writer give a clear description of the problem? ✓ Is the advice clearly explained? ✓ Does each sentence relate to the main idea?
Basic writing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Does the writer use pronouns to refer to things or people correctly? ✓ Does the writer use correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation? ✓ Are there any grammar mistakes?

- 4 Get your draft back and revise it.

4 Put up your writing in the classroom or read it to the class.