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Level 5

UK leader tells schools - teach Mandarin, not French

10th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-5.html>

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron told journalists in China that British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French and German. He plans to double the number of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 by 2016. He will also give money to schools that start teaching Mandarin. Stronger educational ties with China are necessary to keep Britain competitive in China. He said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to seal tomorrow's business deals."

Mr Cameron explained the importance of Mandarin. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China is set to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look beyond the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language agreed to double the number of Chinese language assistants in the UK. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five most important languages for British children to study to help their future job hunting.

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2518549/David-Cameron-Pupils-ditch-French-German-study-Mandarin-instead.html>
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/056eb1da-5ccd-11e3-81bd-00144feabdc0.html#ixzz2mmTQs0sE>
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/david-cameron-ditch-french-and-german-for-mandarin-lessons-29811883.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Britain's Prime | a. instead of French |
| 2. schools should teach Mandarin | b. competitive in China |
| 3. He plans to double the | c. growing economies |
| 4. give money to schools that start | d. Minister |
| 5. educational ties | e. business deals |
| 6. keep Britain | f. with China |
| 7. linked up to the world's fast- | g. number of students |
| 8. seal tomorrow's | h. teaching Mandarin |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr Cameron explained the | a. a foreign language |
| 2. By the time the children born today | b. important languages |
| 3. China is set to be the | c. hunting |
| 4. it's time to look beyond | d. leave school |
| 5. teaching Mandarin as | e. importance of Mandarin |
| 6. language | f. the traditional focus |
| 7. the top five most | g. assistants |
| 8. help their future job | h. world's largest economy |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-5.html>

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (1) _____ China that British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French and German. He plans to (2) _____ of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 by 2016. He (3) _____ to schools that start teaching Mandarin. Stronger (4) _____ China are necessary to (5) _____ in China. He said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to seal (6) _____."

Mr Cameron (7) _____ of Mandarin. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China (8) _____ world's largest economy, so it's (9) _____ the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language (10) _____ the number of Chinese (11) _____ the UK. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five most important languages for British children to study to help their (12) _____.

MANDARIN SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Mandarin in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

