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Level 5

Euro politicians told to stop speaking English

8th February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-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/1602/160208-interpreters-5.html>

The European Parliament has urged its politicians to speak more slowly and to use their native language instead of English. This is to help interpreters who work at the institution. Many interpreters are experiencing difficulties doing their job. A spokesman said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He said politicians who use English when it is not their native language complicate things for translators. He said politicians should speak their own language because: "If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation goes down."

There are 24 official languages at the European Parliament. The most recent additions are Croatian and Bulgarian. A small army of 330 interpreters makes sure everyone understands each other. There are an additional 1,800 freelancers, plus more than 700 translators. If everyone used their native language*, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English. Many politicians prefer to use English so they do not confuse people when they need several interpreters. The parliament's annual budget for interpreters is \$50 million.

* Assuming Irish politicians would have to speak Gaelic, and Maltese politicians must speak Maltese.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-35501198>
<https://euobserver.com/institutional/132136>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/641484/Stop-speaking-ENGLISH-it-s-driving-us-CRAZY-MEPs-told>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. urged its politicians to speak | a. for translators |
| 2. use their native language | b. important |
| 3. help interpreters who work | c. goes down |
| 4. Many interpreters are experiencing | d. at the institution |
| 5. It's extremely | e. difficulties |
| 6. complicate things | f. language |
| 7. speak their own | g. more slowly |
| 8. the quality of interpretation | h. instead of English |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. There are 24 official | a. other |
| 2. The most recent additions | b. people |
| 3. A small army | c. are Croatian and Bulgarian |
| 4. makes sure everyone understands each | d. budget |
| 5. There are an additional | e. use English |
| 6. Many politicians prefer to | f. languages |
| 7. so they do not confuse | g. of 330 interpreters |
| 8. annual | h. 1,800 freelancers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-5.html>

The European Parliament (1) _____ politicians to speak more slowly and to use (2) _____ instead of English. This is to help interpreters who work at the institution. Many interpreters are experiencing difficulties (3) _____. A spokesman said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He said politicians who use English (4) _____ native language complicate things for translators. He said politicians (5) _____ own language because: "If the politicians speak a foreign language, (6) _____ interpretation goes down."

There are 24 (7) _____ at the European Parliament. The most recent additions are Croatian and Bulgarian. (8) _____ 330 interpreters (9) _____ understands each other. There are an additional 1,800 freelancers, (10) _____ 700 translators. If everyone used their native language, only politicians from the UK (11) _____ speak English. Many politicians prefer to use English so they do not confuse people when they need several interpreters. The parliament's (12) _____ for interpreters is \$50 million.

INTERPRETERS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about interpreters 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)

