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Level 6

Euro politicians told to stop speaking English

8th February, 2016

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

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has urged Euro politicians to speak more slowly and to stick to their native language instead of using English. This is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work at the institution. Mr Welle said many interpreters were encountering difficulties doing their job. He said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their native language as this complicates things for the translators. He said "It's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their own language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation goes down."

There are 24 official languages spoken at the European Parliament. The most recent additions are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A small army of 330 interpreters is employed to ensure everyone understands each other. The parliament employs an additional 1,800 freelancers. It also has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 pages each month. If everyone followed Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English*, even though many members are multi-lingual. Many prefer to speak in English to avoid the confusion of having several simultaneous 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>

WARM-UPS

1. INTERPRETERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about interpreters. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

politicians / native language / interpreters / institution / difficulties / important / quality / official languages / army / freelancers / translate / multilingual / confusion / budget

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. FOREIGN LANGUAGE: How useful is knowing a foreign language and why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Useful for..	How useful?	Why?
Movies		
Job		
Social media		
City life		
Friends		
Daily life		

4. ENGLISH: Students A **strongly** believe all international organisations should use English only; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. LANGUAGES: Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Spanish
- French
- Arabic
- Swahili
- Chinese
- Urdu
- Hindi
- Japanese

6. SPEAK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "speak". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The European Parliament (EP) wants politicians to speak more slowly. | T / F |
| b. Many interpreters at the EU are having problems with their job. | T / F |
| c. The parliament wants politicians to stick to their native language. | T / F |
| d. The EP Secretary General said using English makes things easier. | T / F |
| e. There are 26 official languages in use at the European Parliament. | T / F |
| f. There are fewer than 300 interpreters employed by the parliament. | T / F |
| g. EP translators translate over 100,000 pages every week. | T / F |
| h. The European Parliament spends \$50 million a year on interpreters. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. urged | a. confuses |
| 2. instead of | b. keep away from |
| 3. encountering | c. lessens |
| 4. complicates | d. yearly |
| 5. goes down | e. inclusions |
| 6. official | f. experiencing |
| 7. additions | g. encouraged |
| 8. additional | h. rather than |
| 9. avoid | i. extra |
| 10. annual | j. authorised |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. stick to their native language | a. languages |
| 2. encountering | b. speak their own language |
| 3. this complicates things | c. lingual |
| 4. important for interpreters that people | d. instead of using English |
| 5. the quality of interpretation goes | e. freelancers |
| 6. 24 official | f. for the translators |
| 7. The most recent | g. difficulties |
| 8. employs an additional 1,800 | h. budget |
| 9. many members are multi- | i. down |
| 10. annual | j. additions |

GAP FILL

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

The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has (1) _____ Euro politicians to speak more slowly and to stick to their native language (2) _____ of using English. This is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work at the (3) _____. Mr Welle said many interpreters were (4) _____ difficulties doing their job. He said: "It's (5) _____ important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their native language as this (6) _____ things for the translators. He said "It's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their (7) _____ language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation goes (8) _____."

institution
extremely
own
urged
down
encountering
instead
complicates

There are 24 (9) _____ languages spoken at the European Parliament. The most (10) _____ additions are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A small army of 330 interpreters is employed to (11) _____ everyone understands each other. The parliament employs an (12) _____ 1,800 freelancers. It also has about 700 translators, who (13) _____ over 100,000 pages each month. If everyone followed Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English, even though many members are (14) _____-lingual. Many prefer to speak in English to avoid the (15) _____ of having several simultaneous interpreters. The parliament's annual (16) _____ for interpreters is \$50 million.

additional
recent
confusion
ensure
budget
translate
official
multi

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) urged Euro politicians to speak more slowly and to stick to their native language _____ English
 - a. instead for using
 - b. instead by using
 - c. instead of using
 - d. instead on using
- 2) This is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work _____
 - a. at the constitution
 - b. at the institution
 - c. at the instigation
 - d. at the congestion
- 3) He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their native language _____ things
 - a. as this complications
 - b. as this complicates
 - c. as this complicated
 - d. as this complicate
- 4) It's also extremely important for interpreters that people _____ language
 - a. speak their own
 - b. speak their owned
 - c. speak their owner
 - d. speak their owner's
- 5) If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation _____
 - a. goes less
 - b. goes below
 - c. goes under
 - d. goes down
- 6) A small army of 330 interpreters is employed to ensure everyone understands _____
 - a. each one other
 - b. one each other
 - c. each another
 - d. each other
- 7) The parliament employs an additional _____
 - a. 1,600 freelancers
 - b. 1,900 freelancers
 - c. 1,800 freelancers
 - d. 1,700 freelancers
- 8) It also has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 _____
 - a. pages each month
 - b. pages every monthly
 - c. pages each months
 - d. pages every month
- 9) Many prefer to speak in English to avoid the confusion of having _____ interpreters
 - a. several simultaneous
 - b. several simultaneously
 - c. seven simultaneous
 - d. seven simultaneously
- 10) The parliament's annual budget for interpreters _____
 - a. is \$15 million
 - b. is \$50 million
 - c. is \$50 billion
 - d. is \$500 million

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has urged Euro politicians to speak more slowly (1) _____ their native language instead of using English. This is to (2) _____ of interpreters who work at the institution. Mr Welle said many interpreters (3) _____ difficulties doing their job. He said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their (4) _____ as this complicates things for the translators. He said "It's also (5) _____ for interpreters that people speak their own language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the (6) _____ goes down."

There are 24 (7) _____ spoken at the European Parliament. The most recent additions are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A (8) _____ 330 interpreters is employed to ensure everyone understands each other. The parliament employs (9) _____ 1,800 freelancers. It also has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 pages each month. If everyone followed Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would (10) _____ speak English, even though many members are multi-lingual. Many prefer to speak in English to avoid (11) _____ having several simultaneous interpreters. The parliament's (12) _____ interpreters is \$50 million.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is the job title of Klaus Welle?

2. What does Mr Welle want people to use instead of English?

3. Who does Mr Welle want to help at the European Parliament?

4. Who did Mr Welle say the use of English complicates things for?

5. What happens to the quality of interpretation if English is used?

6. How many official languages are there at the European Parliament?

7. How many freelance interpreters does the parliament employ?

8. How many pages get translated at the parliament every month?

9. What do politicians hope to avoid by speaking English?

10. How much does the parliament spend on interpreters every year?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. What is the job title of Klaus Welle?
 - a) CEO
 - b) Secretary General
 - c) President
 - d) Communications Minister
2. What does Mr Welle want people to use instead of English?
 - a) French
 - b) Esperanto
 - c) German
 - d) their native language
3. Who does Mr Welle want to help at the European Parliament?
 - a) interpreters
 - b) his boss
 - c) all Europeans
 - d) English speakers
4. Who did Mr Welle say the use of English complicates things for?
 - a) security staff
 - b) politicians
 - c) translators
 - d) the average European
5. What happens to the quality of interpretation if English is used?
 - a) it increases
 - b) it goes down
 - c) it is enhanced
 - d) nothing
6. How many official languages are there at the European Parliament?
 - a) 24
 - b) 25
 - c) 26
 - d) 27
7. How many freelance interpreters does the parliament employ?
 - a) 700
 - b) 330
 - c) 1,800
 - d) 100,000
8. How many pages get translated at the parliament every month?
 - a) more than 100,000
 - b) less than 100,000
 - c) exactly 100,000
 - d) around 100,000
9. What do politicians hope to avoid by speaking English?
 - a) confusion
 - b) fights
 - c) costs
 - d) language schools
10. How much does the parliament spend on interpreters every year?
 - a) \$50 billion
 - b) \$500,000,000
 - c) \$5,000,000
 - d) \$50 million

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Spanish

You think Spanish is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Arabic, Chinese or French.

Role B – Arabic

You think Arabic is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Spanish, Chinese or French.

Role C – Chinese

You think Chinese is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Arabic, Spanish or French.

Role D – French

You think French is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Arabic, Chinese or Spanish.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'native' and 'language'.

native	language
---------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stick• hundreds• fast• complicates• own• quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24• recent• army• 100,000• allowed• annual
---	---

INTERPRETERS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters.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.

INTERPRETERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'interpreter'?
- 3) Would you be a good interpreter?
- 4) What do you think about what you read?
- 5) What do you know about the European Parliament?
- 6) Should only English be used at the European Parliament?
- 7) How important is English?
- 8) How difficult do you think it is to be an interpreter?
- 9) How would the world be different if everyone spoke the same language?
- 10) What problems have you had interpreting things into English?

Euro politicians told to stop speaking English – 8th February, 2016
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INTERPRETERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) Would you like to work as an interpreter?
- 13) How difficult is it for an organization to have 24 official languages?
- 14) What will you need English for in life?
- 15) How important is English in your country?
- 16) What are the advantages of being multilingual?
- 17) How would your life be different if you could not speak English?
- 18) What advantages do UK politicians have in Europe?
- 19) How important is your native language in the world?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the head of the European Parliament?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has (1) ____ Euro politicians to speak more slowly and to (2) ____ to their native language instead of using English. This is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work at the institution. Mr Welle said many interpreters were (3) ____ difficulties doing their job. He said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their native language as this (4) ____ things for the translators. He said "It's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their (5) ____ language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation (6) ____ down."

There are 24 (7) ____ languages spoken at the European Parliament. The most recent additions are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A small army of 330 interpreters is (8) ____ to ensure everyone understands each other. The parliament employs an additional 1,800 (9) _____. It also has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 pages each month. If everyone (10) ____ Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English, even though many members are multi-lingual. Many (11) ____ to speak in English to avoid the confusion of having several simultaneous interpreters. The parliament's (12) ____ budget for interpreters is \$50 million.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) verged | (b) merged | (c) purged | (d) urged |
| 2. | (a) paste | (b) tack | (c) glue | (d) stick |
| 3. | (a) discounting | (b) encountering | (c) cantering | (d) decanting |
| 4. | (a) replicates | (b) inculcates | (c) complicates | (d) duplicates |
| 5. | (a) own | (b) owned | (c) owner | (d) owns |
| 6. | (a) goes | (b) going | (c) went | (d) gone |
| 7. | (a) officially | (b) officialdom | (c) officials | (d) official |
| 8. | (a) employed | (b) distilled | (c) embroiled | (d) beguiled |
| 9. | (a) freestylers | (b) freelancers | (c) free-fallers | (d) free-loaders |
| 10. | (a) chased | (b) stalked | (c) followed | (d) shadowed |
| 11. | (a) rather | (b) sooner | (c) prefer | (d) partial |
| 12. | (a) annul | (b) annual | (c) manual | (d) year |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. The European rtnaeiPlam
2. hundreds of rprrnseettei
3. work at the ttsninuotii
4. It's yeelxetmr important
5. their vatnei language
6. this oislamctepc things

Paragraph 2

7. 24 fcaliiof languages
8. an additional 1,800 elfearnrsec
9. It also has about 700 sntrslroata
10. many members are ullnltmagiiu
11. avoid the icofonnsu
12. nnuaal budget

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 pages each
()	job. He said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to
()	own language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation goes down."
()	understands each other. The parliament employs an additional 1,800 freelancers. It also
()	confusion of having several simultaneous interpreters. The parliament's annual budget for interpreters is \$50 million.
()	month. If everyone followed Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English,
(1)	The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has urged Euro politicians to speak more
()	even though many members are multi-lingual. Many prefer to speak in English to avoid the
()	of interpreters who work at the institution. Mr Welle said many interpreters were encountering difficulties doing their
()	use English if it was not their native language as this complicates things for
()	slowly and to stick to their native language instead of using English. This is to help the hundreds
()	are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A small army of 330 interpreters is employed to ensure everyone
()	There are 24 official languages spoken at the European Parliament. The most recent additions
()	the translators. He added: "It's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. and to stick to their native language Speak more slowly .

2. who the The interpreters at of work institution hundreds .

3. that not fast important do too Extremely people speak .

4. native their not was it if English use to Not language .

5. for important Extremely speak people that interpreters .

6. spoken parliament are languages the There official at 24 .

7. A interpreters small is army employed of 330 .

8. The an employs 1,800 freelancers parliament additional .

9. interpreters simultaneous several having of confusion The .

10. annual interpreters \$50 parliament's for budget The is million .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has *urgent* / *urged* Euro politicians to speak more slowly and to *stick* / *glue* to their native language instead *of* / *for* using English. This is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work at the *institution* / *instigation*. Mr Welle said many interpreters were encountering difficulties *do* / *doing* their job. He said: "It's *extremely* / *extremity* important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their native language *was* / *as* this complicates *thing* / *things* for the translators. He said "It's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their *own* / *owned* language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation *goes* / *go* down."

There are 24 *officially* / *official* languages spoken at the European Parliament. The most *recent* / *recently* additions are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A small *army* / *armed* of 330 interpreters is employed to *reassure* / *ensure* everyone understands *each* / *one* other. The parliament employs an additional 1,800 freelancers. It also has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 pages each *monthly* / *month*. If everyone *followed* / *follow* Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English, even though many *membered* / *members* are multi-lingual. Many *prefer* / *rather* to speak in English to avoid the confusion of having several simultaneous interpreters. The parliament's *annually* / *annual* budget for interpreters is \$50 million.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_ _ _ r_p_ _ n P_rl_ _ m_ nt's S_cr_t_ ry G_n_r_l, Kl_ _ s
W_ll_ , h_s_ _ rg_d_ _ r_ p_l_t_c_ _ ns t_ sp_ _ k m_r_
sl_wly_ _ nd t_ st_ ck t_ th_ _ r n_t_v_ l_ng_ _ g_ _ nst_ _ d
_ f_ _ s_ ng_ _ ngl_ sh. Th_s_ _ s t_ h_l_p th_ h_ ndr_ ds_ _ f
_ nt_rpr_t_ rs wh_ w_rk_ _ t th_ _ nst_ t_ t_ _ n. Mr W_ll_
s_ _ d_ _ m_ ny_ _ nt_rpr_t_ rs w_r_ _ nc_ _ nt_r_ ng
d_ff_c_ lt_ _ s d_ _ ng th_ _ r j_ b. H_ s_ _ d: "t's_ _ xtr_ m_ ly
_ mp_rt_ nt th_ t p_ _ pl_ d_ _ n_t sp_ _ k t_ _ f_ st." H_
_ sk_d p_l_t_c_ _ ns n_t t_ _ s_ _ ngl_ sh_ _ f_ t w_ s n_t
th_ _ r n_t_v_ l_ng_ _ g_ _ s th_s c_ mpl_ c_ t_ s th_ ngs f_r
th_ _ tr_ nsl_ t_ rs. H_ s_ _ d "t's_ _ ls_ _ xtr_ m_ ly
_ mp_rt_ nt f_r_ _ nt_rpr_t_ rs th_ t p_ _ pl_ sp_ _ k th_ _ r
_ wn l_ ng_ _ g_ . _ f th_ p_l_t_c_ _ ns sp_ _ k_ _ f_r_ gn
l_ ng_ _ g_ , th_ q_ _ l_ ty_ _ f_ nt_rpr_t_ t_ _ n g_ _ s d_ wn."

Th_r_ _ r_ 24_ _ ff_c_ l_ l_ ng_ _ g_ s sp_ k_ n_ _ t th_
_ _ r_p_ _ n P_rl_ _ m_ nt. Th_ m_ st r_ c_ nt_ _ dd_ t_ _ ns_ _ r_
Cr_ _ t_ n, _ r_ sh, B_lg_r_ _ n_ nd R_m_n_ _ n. _ _ sm_ ll
_ rmy_ _ f 330_ _ nt_rpr_t_ rs_ _ s_ _ mpl_ y_ d_ t_ _ ns_ r_
_ v_ ry_ n_ _ nd_ rst_ nds_ _ ch_ _ th_ r. Th_ p_rl_ _ m_ nt
_ mpl_ ys_ _ n_ _ dd_ t_ _ n_ l 1,800 fr_ _ l_ nc_ rs. _ t_ ls_ h_s
_ b_ _ t 700 tr_ nsl_ t_ rs, wh_ tr_ nsl_ t_ _ v_ r 100,000
p_ g_ s_ _ ch_ m_ nth. _ f_ _ v_ ry_ n_ f_ ll_ w_ d Mr W_ll_ 's
r_ q_ _ st, _ nly p_l_t_c_ _ ns fr_ m th_ _ K w_ _ ld b_
_ ll_ w_ d t_ sp_ _ k_ _ ngl_ sh, _ v_ n th_ _ gh m_ ny m_ mb_ rs
_ r_ m_ lt_ -l_ ng_ _ l. M_ ny pr_ f_ r_ t_ sp_ _ k_ _ n_ ngl_ sh t_
_ v_ _ d th_ c_ nf_ s_ _ n_ f_ h_ v_ ng_ s_ v_ r_ l_ s_ m_ lt_ n_ _ s
_ nt_rpr_t_ rs. Th_ p_rl_ _ m_ nt's_ _ nn_ _ l_ b_ dg_ t_ f_r
_ nt_rpr_t_ rs_ _ s \$50 m_ ll_ _ n.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the european parliament's secretary general klaus welle has urged euro politicians to speak more slowly and to stick to their native language instead of using english this is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work at the institution mr welle said many interpreters were encountering difficulties doing their job he said "it's extremely important that people do not speak too fast" he asked politicians not to use english if it was not their native language as this complicates things for the translators he said "it's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their own language if the politicians speak a foreign language the quality of interpretation goes down"

there are 24 official languages spoken at the european parliament the most recent additions are croatian irish bulgarian and romanian a small army of 330 interpreters is employed to ensure everyone understands each other the parliament employs an additional 1800 freelancers it also has about 700 translators who translate over 100000 pages each month if everyone followed mr welle's request only politicians from the uk would be allowed to speak english even though many members are multi-lingual many prefer to speak in english to avoid the confusion of having several simultaneous interpreters the parliament's annual budget for interpreters is \$50 million

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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The European Parliament's Secretary General, Klaus Welle, has urged European politicians to speak more slowly and to stick to their native language instead of using English. This is to help the hundreds of interpreters who work at the institution. Mr Welle said many interpreters were encountering difficulties doing their job. He said: "It's extremely important that people do not speak too fast." He asked politicians not to use English if it was not their native language as this complicates things for the translators. He said "It's also extremely important for interpreters that people speak their own language. If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation goes down." There are 24 official languages spoken at the European Parliament. The most recent additions are Croatian, Irish, Bulgarian and Romanian. A small army of 330 interpreters is employed to ensure everyone understands each other. The parliament employs an additional 1,800 freelancers. It also has about 700 translators, who translate over 100,000 pages each month. If everyone followed Mr Welle's request, only politicians from the UK would be allowed to speak English, even though many members are multi-lingual. Many prefer to speak in English to avoid the confusion of having several simultaneous interpreters. The parliament's annual budget for interpreters is \$50 million.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the European Parliament and the work it does. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. INTERPRETERS: Make a poster about interpreters. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ENGLISH: Write a magazine article about English being the only language at all international organisations. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert interpreter. Ask him/her three questions about interpreting. Give him/her three ideas on what to do about politicians at the European Parliament being asked to not speak English. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b T c T d F e F f F g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. urged | a. encouraged |
| 2. instead of | b. rather than |
| 3. encountering | c. experiencing |
| 4. complicates | d. confuses |
| 5. goes down | e. lessens |
| 6. official | f. authorised |
| 7. additions | g. inclusions |
| 8. additional | h. extra |
| 9. avoid | i. keep away from |
| 10. annual | j. yearly |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Secretary General
2. Their native language
3. Interpreters
4. Translators
5. It goes down
6. 24
7. 1,800
8. Over 100,000
9. Confusion
10. \$50 million

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)