



GOBIERNO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN

Dirección General de Ordenación, Evaluación y Equidad Educativa

ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE NIVEL INTERMEDIO B2 DE INGLÉS CONVOCATORIA 2022

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

MODELO DE CORRECCIÓN

HOJA DE RESPUESTAS

EJERCICIO 1: 'SMART CITIES'				Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	A	<u>B</u>	C	
2	<u>A</u>	B	C	
3	A	B	<u>C</u>	
4	A	<u>B</u>	C	
5	A	B	<u>C</u>	
6	<u>A</u>	B	C	
7	A	B	<u>C</u>	
8	A	B	<u>C</u>	
9	<u>A</u>	B	C	
10	A	<u>B</u>	C	

EJERCICIO 2: VISIT BRISTOL				Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	A	<u>B</u>	C	
2	<u>A</u>	B	C	
3	A	<u>B</u>	C	
4	A	B	<u>C</u>	
5	<u>A</u>	B	C	
6	<u>A</u>	B	C	
7	<u>A</u>	B	C	
8	A	B	<u>C</u>	
9	A	<u>B</u>	C	
10	<u>A</u>	B	C	

EJERCICIO 3: CAN A TINY BEE SAVE A GIANT ELEPHANT?									Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	A	B	C	D	E	<u>F</u>	G	H	
2	A	B	C	D	E	F	<u>G</u>	H	
3	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	<u>H</u>	
4	A	B	C	<u>D</u>	E	F	G	H	
5	A	<u>B</u>	C	D	E	F	G	H	

EJERCICIO 1**‘SMART CITIES’ ARE POISED TO CHANGE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN***adapted from www.thedailybeast.com*

Read this article. For questions 1-10, choose the correct option A-C as in the example 0. Only ONE answer is possible. DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

In 1999, a new device called a “smart phone” was just starting to hit the market—and it was a revelation. Smart phones effectively changed the way we receive and distribute information. With smart phones, (0) users could store several gigs worth of files in their pocket, communicate quickly through text and predictive typing, and access breaking news at the click of a button.

Two decades later, cities and infrastructure are poised to be the next big thing disrupted and improved by technology. Like smart phones, urban areas—dubbed (1) “smart cities”—are now harnessing data to improve how the city is run and how residents access local services.

Though it might seem like a futuristic trend, smart cities are already starting to become more popular across the U.S., and are expected to become commonplace with the rise of 5G capabilities. (1) In Kansas City, MO, sensors monitor the flow of traffic in the city's streets, while public kiosks, powered by wi-fi, (2) provide safety alerts to residents. Further east, (2) in San Jose, CA, residents can report streetlight outages, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, potholes, and any illegal activity through an app called “My San Jose.” Smart cities are also gaining popularity abroad as well: (1) Hangzhou, a Chinese city just south of Shanghai, now uses surveillance videos from intersection cameras as well as GPS data to monitor the flow of traffic throughout the city.

But the purpose of smart city technology isn't just to collect user data. The end-game is to ultimately create a more efficient, and sustainable way of life. In Hangzhou, for instance, (3) operators have been able to use traffic data to better coordinate traffic signals, which lessens the chance of gridlock. When emergency strikes, dispatchers can also use that data to direct emergency vehicles to the scene of an accident using the quickest possible route. Supported by 5G, emergency vehicles can get directions to the scene of an accident in the quickest way possible, since internet shortfalls like latency or buffering will be non-existent. It's not surprising then that cities that use smart technology, often powered by 5G, can expect a 35 percent faster emergency response time and shorter commute times by up to 30 minutes. In cities where people can report illegal activity through an app—like San Jose—can decrease their crime rate by as much as 40 percent.

(4) Another draw of smart cities are the possible effects on health. Not only does smart city technology provide faster response times in case of an emergency, but experts say that it could also lower the burden of disease in a given area between eight and 15 percent. Efficient traffic routes, for example, lead to lower commute times, which produce less smog and environmental pollution, which in turn alleviates health problems like asthma and other respiratory illnesses caused by the fine particulate matter found in air pollution. Kiosks—like the ones in Kansas City—can identify health risks based on demographics and issue information about vaccines, safe sex, sanitation, or warnings about deadly epidemics. (5) Residents can also access medical services via telemedicine apps and hail cabs from the safety of their homes, a measure thought to reduce traffic fatalities by at least one percent.

But one of the biggest benefits of “smart cities” is that they have the potential to be environmentally sound. Urban areas are notorious for producing high levels of smog and pollution that can cause health risks such as cancer and negatively impact other areas of the surrounding environment, like the water supply. But smart cities could change that as well (6) Services like bike-riding (where bikes are unlocked and borrowed by residents with an app) and ride-sharing work to cut down on air pollution. Waste management systems like (7) BigBelly—already implemented in several cities—use sensors and solar power to compact trash and communicate with local waste management organizations when they need to be emptied. Automated systems, like BigBelly, reduce or eliminate the need for city workers to do these chores manually—meaning a reduced carbon footprint, less waste, and a healthier environment all around.

(8) So how can cities get “smart”? While it's possible to spend billions on cameras, sensors, and sophisticated software, many cities are opting for an easier route: smartphone users have built-in sensors that can collect and transmit data either voluntarily or automatically, called mobile crowd-sensing. GPS sensors, for example, can provide important data about where traffic is located in a city at a given time, (9) while other sensing systems can detect things like potholes or slippery roads, and when these devices are powered by 5G, it's possible for things like traffic rerouting, ride-sharing, and data collection can all happen instantaneously. In other words, rather than building a “smart city” from the ground up, many are electing to use the technology that's already there, in our pockets.

By 2050, the United Nations estimates that the majority of the world will be living in cities. Before that happens, it falls upon us to make those places as efficient, sustainable, and healthy as possible.

(10) throughout the whole article

EJERCICIO 2

VISIT BRISTOL

Adapted from www.visitbristol.co.uk

Read this article. For questions 1-10, choose the correct option A-D as in the example 0. Only ONE answer is possible. DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

Bristol has so much to do and see and we know how difficult it can be picking exactly what you'd like to do while you are here. So, we've pulled together lots of ideas for things to do in Bristol to help you decide and plan your perfect itinerary, being Christmas Steps area one of them.

Christmas Steps

The quirky and (0) historic Christmas Steps area in Bristol, UK may (1) charm you with its architecture, but you'll fall in love with its shops. (2) Home to the Christmas Steps Arts Quarter, the area is full of independent art galleries, pottery studios and creative talent.

If you're searching for a gift, souvenir or (3) keepsake, you will find unique pieces of artwork from some of Bristol's best (4) up-and-coming artists, and some of the areas most established names for sale in these eclectic and exciting shops.

Go off the (5) beaten track and explore the intertwining streets and (6) alleyways surrounding Colston Street, Park Row, St Michael's Hill and Upper Maudlin Street where you'll find an enchanting (7) array of independent shops, studios, bars and cafes.

The Christmas Steps arts quarter is located next to the Old City and borders Park Street and Triangle area. Whether you plan your visit, or stumble upon it, make the (8) most of your time in the area by (9) savouring a beer or a cider at one of the many pubs, including some brewed right there at the Zero Degrees microbrewery.

To gain a (10) glimpse into the past, stop to enjoy the historic Fosters Almshouses, or travel back in time at the Red Lodge, an original 17th century townhouse museum.

EJERCICIO 3**CAN A TINY BEE SAVE A GIANT ELEPHANT?**

Adapted from National Geographic September 2020_ Lego Group Advertisement

Read this article. For questions 1-5, choose the correct heading A- G as in the example 0. Only ONE answer is possible. Two of the options provided are not necessary. **DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET**

0 A In the heart of Mozambique, at the edge of the Great African Rift Valley, you'll find the Gorongosa National Park.

A vast expanse of rainforest, grasslands, rivers, and some of the most amazing wildlife on Earth.

If you could go back in time a few years, you'd see many elephants roaming around Gorongosa. Back in 1972, there were 2.500 of them.

1 F The Fifteen Years, Four Months, and Four Days War

Then the Mozambican civil war struck.

The elephants suffered terribly, hunted for their ivory so people could sell it to buy arms and supplies. By the end of the conflict, fewer than 200 elephants remained. Traumatized, and with notoriously long memories, these elephant survivors don't trust people very much. With about 170,000 people living in and around Gorongosa, that can be a problem.

2 G You try stopping a ravenous elephant

Most people in Gorongosa eat what they can grow on the ground, so if something goes wrong with their crops, they don't eat. And things do go wrong. An infestation. A storm. A drought. Or a group of starving elephants with PTSD, looking for potatoes at night. Hungry elephants weary of people encounter hungry people weary of elephants. The people push, the elephants push back. Both sides get hurt, sometimes badly.

3 H To the rescue: a young woman, a great idea, and... bees

Enter Mozambican ecologist Dominique Gonçalves. She works at the Gorongosa National Park, managing the Elephant Ecology Project. She is also a National Geographic Fellow and Explorer, and she knows elephants very well. She even knows about a little phobia of theirs.

4 D It turns out elephants are petrified of bees

She strung a network of ropes along the boundaries of the crops. And hanging from the ropes... beehives. Elephants looking for food rattle the ropes, which really riles the insects. The sight and sound of the swarming animals makes the elephants flee before anyone gets hurt.

Now the villages are protected, the crops don't get ruined, and people don't have to resort to hurting the elephants to safeguard their food supply.

And there's an extra benefit: the locals now have honey to eat and sell.

5 B Being just creative

A genially simple idea, at the cost of a few occasionally annoyed bees. That's what happens when the power of ingenuity meets a dedicated person's love for the planet.

EJERCICIO 1**'SMART CITIES' ARE POISED TO CHANGE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN**

0 According to the text, the first smart phones ...

A set back typing

B enabled users to stock huge amounts of stuff

C allowed callers to have social media at their fingertips

1 Certain urban areas such as Kansas City and Hangzhou analyze data to check on ...

A transport

B circulation

C surveillance

2 Wireless networks can also help cities to ...

A prevent crime

B stop streetlight theft

C slow down roadwork

3 In these cities, emergencies are better dealt with because ...

A reaction time has been significantly reduced

B emergency services can get internet through Wi-Fi

C police cars, ambulances or fire engines can avoid congestion

4 'Smart cities' can help to improve public health through ...

A hiring taxi services

B shortening commuting time

C giving advice on how to use fitness and wellbeing apps

5 'Smart cities' have succeeded in ...

A giving off car fumes

B stopping respiratory illnesses

C lowering road traffic death rates

6 One of the services 'smart cities' offer is ...

A carpooling

B bicycle maintenance

C better water resources

7 *Bigbelly* is an app that ...

A has already been tested

B encourages manual work

C uses a renewable energy source

8 In order to become a smart city ...

A citizens must download an app

B important investments are needed

C storage and communication of data are essential

9 GPS sensors on their own or combined with 5G make it possible to detect where to ...

A divert traffic

B build new car routes

C build new cycle lanes

10 The purpose of this article is to ...

A attract migration to cities

B raise awareness of the potential of technology in cities

C warn citizens against the use of their personal data in cities

EJERCICIO 2**VISIT BRISTOL**

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 0. | A. classical | B. fascinated | <u>C. historic</u> |
| 1. | A. appeal | <u>B. charm</u> | C. turn down |
| 2. | <u>A. Home</u> | B. Quarters | C. House |
| 3. | A. bargain | <u>B. keepsake</u> | C. sample |
| 4. | A. out-of- date date | B. state-of-the-art | <u>C. up-and-coming</u> |
| 5. | <u>A. beaten</u> | B. stirred | C. whipped |
| 6. | <u>A. alleyways</u> | B. aisles | C. corridors |
| 7. | <u>A. array</u> | B. congregation | C. crowd |
| 8. | A. best | B. more | <u>C. most</u> |
| 9. | A. chewing | <u>B. savouring</u> | C. spitting |
| 10. | <u>A. glimpse</u> | B. look | C. stare |

EJERCICIO 3**CAN A TINY BEE SAVE A GIANT ELEPHANT?**

QUESTIONS
0 <u> A </u>
1 <u> F </u>
2 <u> G </u>
3 <u> H </u>
4 <u> D </u>
5 <u> B </u>

DL: AS – 0329-2022

REMOVED HEADINGS (Remember: two headings are not needed)
A In the heart of Mozambique, at the edge of the Great African Rift Valley, you'll find the Gorongosa National Park.
B Being just creative
C Too many people in Gorongosa.
D It turns out elephants are petrified of bees.
E Ecological honey business.
F The Fifteen Years, Four Months, and Four Days War.
G You try stopping a ravenous elephant.
H To the rescue: a young woman, a great idea, and... bees.



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EJERCICIO 1: HOW TO TASTE CHOCOLATE LIKE AN EXPERT

Espacio reservado para la persona correctora

1	A	<u>B</u>	C	
2	A	B	<u>C</u>	
3	A	B	<u>C</u>	
4	<u>A</u>	B	C	
5	<u>A</u>	B	C	
6	A	<u>B</u>	C	
7	A	B	<u>C</u>	
8	A	<u>B</u>	C	
9	<u>A</u>	B	C	
10	A	<u>B</u>	C	

EJERCICIO 2: THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

Espacio reservado para la persona correctora

1	SONGWRITER AND PERFORMER	
2	TOUCHED BY	
3	(A) STROKE	
4	TO REGAIN	
5	CAN LOWER	
6	BREATHING (RATES)	
7	(DEVELOPMENTAL) DISABILITIES	
8	FIRSTHAND / FIRST-HAND	
9	LIFELESS	
10	RESTORED	

EJERCICIO 3: WHAT IF ALL HUMANS SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE?

Espacio reservado para la persona correctora

1	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE	
2	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>	
3	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE	
4	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>	
5	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>	

EJERCICIO 1

HOW TO TASTE CHOCOLATE LIKE AN EXPERT

<https://www.npr.org/2021/02/13/967704483/how-to-taste-chocolate-like-an-expert>

Listen to a radio interview. For items 1-10, choose the correct answer A, B or C, as in example 0. Only ONE answer is possible.

DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

0 Chocolate is the best choice for...

A gluttons

B voracious people

C sugar enthusiasts

1 Siram Sethi...

A produces chocolate

B is an expert on chocolate

C has written "The Slow Melt" book

2 According to Sethi, the first thing to do is...

A to specialize in chocolate

B to start with 70% cocoa content

C to choose the appropriate chocolate

3 Sethi states that chocolate...

A tastes like cocoa

B has only one flavor

C offers a bunch of tastes

4 Sethi recommends...

A being aware of its country of origin

B starting with a traditional candy bar

C eating high cocoa percentage chocolate

5 Sethi says that you should start by examining the...

A packaging

B cocoa content

C interior of the bar

6 According to Sethi, as soon as you unwrap the chocolate, its distinctive smell....

A is held

B is freed

C is masked

7 To feel the texture you must...

A crack a piece

B listen to the sound

C touch the piece of chocolate

8 Sethi affirms that to savour that chocolate you should ...

A chew thoroughly

B let it cover your mouth

C smell it at the beginning

9 These tasting principles could be applied ...

A to every chocolate

B to every artisanal chocolate bars

C to every chocolate bar which contains higher cocoa percentages

10 At the end of the interview Sethi assures us that when you get curious about chocolate, ...

A you will just notice its origin

B you will value it even more

C you will savour it like an expert

EJERCICIO 2**THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC**<https://deepenglish.com>

Listen to the recording. For questions 1-10, complete the sentences with ONE to THREE words or numbers, as in example 0.

DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

0 Music can lift us up or OVERWHELM us with emotion.

1 Billy Joel, the famous American SONGWRITER AND PERFORMER said that music is healing.

2 Music is an explosive expression of humanity. It is something we are all TOUCHED BY.

3 People with brain injuries such as (A) STROKE have had success with music therapy.

4 It bypasses the damaged areas, allowing people TO REGAIN movement or speech.

5 Studies have shown that music therapy CAN LOWER the stress hormone cortisol.

6 It can improve heart and BREATHING rates as well as anxiety and pain in cancer patients.

7 Also, for children with (DEVELOPMENTAL) DISABILITIES, music can be healing.

8 Therapist Yvonne Russell has seen FIRSTHAND / FIRST-HAND the power of music to heal the elderly.

9 When Yvonne gave Henry an iPod with his favorite blasts from the past, his LIFELESS face became transformed with energy.

10 After listening to music, Henry is RESTORED to himself. He has remembered who he is and has reacquired his identity

EJERCICIO 3**WHAT IF ALL HUMANS SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE?**

Adapted from <https://insh.world/science/what-if-all-humans-spoke-the-same-language/>

You will hear a podcast. For questions 1-5 circle the correct option (TRUE or FALSE), as in example 0. **DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET**

0	The Merriam-Webster dictionary contains about 470,000 words.	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
1	Our mother tongue bears upon our individual nature.	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
2	Spoken by over 1 billion people, Mandarin is the world's most universal language.	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>
3	Dr. Ludwick Zamenhof's expectations were to promote trust among a multi-ethnic community.	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
4	Esperanto fulfilled its inventor's aims.	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>
5	When dealing with cultures and customs, words can be easily translated.	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>

EJERCICIO 1**HOW TO TASTE CHOCOLATE LIKE AN EXPERT**

<https://www.npr.org/2021/02/13/967704483/how-to-taste-chocolate-like-an-expert>

MICHEL MARTIN, HOST:

Now, we know you know what day tomorrow is, and while flowers or cards do make perfectly lovely gifts for your Valentine or for yourself - because, you know, self-care is important – **(0-C)** anyone with a sweet tooth will try and tell you chocolate is the best choice. Now, if your go-to is a Hershey's or other mass-produced bar, no judgment. But you might be missing out on the full range of tastes and aromas that chocolate has to offer. Just trust the experts on this.

SIMRAN SETHI: Tasting chocolate is a full sensory experience.

MARTIN: **(1-B)** That's Simran Sethi. She hosts "The Slow Melt" podcast, where she explores all things chocolate. And she reports on the latest episode of NPR's Life Kit podcast, which is titled *How To Savor Chocolate Like A Cocoa Expert*. **(2-C)** Sethi says the first step to enjoying chocolate like a pro is picking the right bar."

SETHI: In a more specialized bar that has something like a 70% cocoa content, you might have just one more ingredient. And what that will do is just give you an extraordinarily powerful tasting experience. And that's when you start to get all the flavors that are available in cocoa. We tend to think about chocolate as one flavor, **(3-C)** but it's actually many flavors if we allow it.

MARTIN: Now, if you've only ever had a more traditional candy bar, Sethi recommends starting with a lower cocoa percentage and working your way up. **(4-A)** And, she says, pay attention to where that chocolate bar came from.

SETHI: All of the countries where cocoa grows - they express different flavors in cocoa. This is what we call terroir. It's the same thing that we can find in wine, right? A wine from California is very different than a wine from France, for example.

MARTIN: Now, once you've got your bar, Sethi says it's time to engage all five senses - slowly, seriously. **(5-A)** She says start by inspecting the wrapper with your eyes before moving on to what's inside.

SETHI: And then what you want to do is start to unwrap it, and you'll get this, like, explosion of aroma, right? **(6-B)** As you bring it towards your nose, it'll all start to - you know, to release.

MARTIN: Next, break off a piece and listen for that satisfying snap sound. Then you can move on to feeling the texture. **(7-C)** That's right - give your chocolate a gentle rub between your fingers.

SETHI: That's also going to give you a clue as to how it was ground. Perhaps it was ground on stones, and it's a little gritty. Maybe it's really soft or silky.

MARTIN: And finally, it's time to eat. But don't rush. Sethi says you want to savor that chocolate.

SETHI: **(8-B)** Let it melt on your tongue, coat the entire inside of your mouth. And just notice. There's going to be something at the beginning, and then you may notice it changes. And what you're actually getting here is its taste on the tongue. But what's also happening is the retronasal system in the back of the throat, where the nose meets the throat - those aromas, those smells are also releasing again. So when we talk about flavor, it's that combination of smell and taste. And notice how it finishes and how long the finish is.

MARTIN: (9-A) By the way, you don't have to have a fancy artisanal chocolate bar for any of this. Sethi says you can apply all of these tasting principles to any chocolate.

SETHI: And when you start to really pay attention to not only what your chocolate bar tastes like, (10-B) but to get curious about where it comes from, how it was made, I assure you, your appreciation for this substance is only going to grow.

MARTIN: That was Simran Sethi. She is the author of "Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Loss Of Foods We Love." You can hear her full guide to savoring cocoa like an expert on the latest episode of NPR's Life Kit podcast at npr.org. (SOUNDBITE OF RACHEL PORTMAN'S "MINOR SWING")

EJERCICIO 2

THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

<https://deepenglish.com>

People are enamored with music. It touches our souls in profound ways that words alone cannot equal. It stirs our imagination, invigorates our bodies, and transforms our moods. It can lift us up or (0) overwhelm us with emotion. It can make us feel down in the dumps or over the moon. It can pump us up, and it can calm us down. Billy Joel, the famous American songwriter and (1) performer, once said. "I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all (2) touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music." There is no doubt: music can indeed heal.

People with brain injuries such as (3) a stroke, for example, have had success with music therapy. It can activate their brain in alternative ways. It often bypasses the damaged areas, allowing people (4) to regain movement or speech. In this way, music changes the structure of the brain. It gives people new chances to move and speak.

Also, studies have shown that music therapy (5) can lower the stress hormone cortisol. It can also increase the pleasure hormone dopamine. It can improve heart and (6) breathing rates, as well as anxiety and pain in cancer patients. In the field of psychology, music has been used to help people suffering from depression and sadness. Also, for children with (7) developmental disabilities, music can be healing.

Therapist Yvonne Russell has seen (8) firsthand the power of music to heal the elderly. Henry, an old man, was living in a nursing home. Like some people his age, Henry was suffering from dementia. He forgot things easily and has lost many of his mental abilities. In fact, Henry lived in his own world, often unresponsive to other people. But when Yvonne gave him an iPod with his favorite blasts from the past, he instantly began to sing and sway to the music. His (9) lifeless face became transformed with energy. His eyes came alive with emotion as he listened to music. While he was mostly mute for years, after listening to music he was suddenly able to shoot the breeze with the people around him. Music breathed life into his body and mind. According to Neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks, "Henry is (10) restored to himself. He has remembered who he is and has reacquired his identity for a while through the power of music."

EJERCICIO 3

WHAT IF ALL HUMANS SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE?

Adapted from <https://insh.world/science/what-if-all-humans-spoke-the-same-language/>

(Aloha, Bonjour, Ciao, Ni hao, Ola, Yahssou, Zdravo) With more than 7,000 distinct languages spoken around the world, there are a lot of different ways you can say hello. But wouldn't it be easier to just have one? What's the use in talking if we can't understand each other? You say tomato, I say tomato... Let's just call the whole thing off! This is what if -and here's what would happen - if all humans spoke the same language.

(0-TRUE) In September 2019, the Merriam -Webster English dictionary added 530 new words to its collection that now totals roughly 470000 words.

Needless to say, language, -all languages are always evolving. How could they not? One hundred years ago, words like "online" and "video" didn't exist! Today here you are watching one. But "evolving" and "merging" mean two different things and it would take a lot more than changing times to get us all speaking the same language.

But is it still possible? There would be more than a few issues involved with choosing one language for everyone to speak. Who would want to give up their mother tongue? **(1-TRUE)** Our native language is more than just a means of communication, it's a link to our personal identity.

And if we were to force everyone to choose one existing language over another, it would not only spark a lot of tension, it could put, millions if not billions, of people at a severe disadvantage. Let's put this conundrum into context. The English language is spoken in more than 100 countries, making it the world's most universal language. **(2- FALSE)** But with 1.1 billion speakers, Mandarin is the most spoken language in the world. So how would you choose?

In 1887 Dr. Ludwick Zamenhof invented Esperanto, which he believed could be adopted as an international language. Zamenhof grew up in Bialystok, Poland, which was home to a multi-ethnic mixture of Poles, Russians, Jews, Lithuanians, and Germans. **(3-TRUE)** Zamenhof believed he could promote trust and build community amongst the diverse population by creating a new language that everyone could speak. But since Esperanto was never adopted by any political or economic superpower, **(4-FALSE)** it failed to live up to Zamenhof's expectations. Nonetheless more than 2 million people in 120 countries now speak Esperanto, making it the most commonly used constructed language. So, if we had to choose a neutral language for everyone to adopt, Esperanto would be the likeliest contender. But feel free to make the case for Klingon or Elvish! Even if the world did share a single language there'd still be plenty of misunderstandings because it's not such a small world after all.

Since the first human migrations we've settled all over the place, evolving in different climates, relying on different foods, and building economies on different resources. **(5-FALSE)** These divergent experiences formed unique cultures and customs, which don't always translate so easily. So, while we could all adopt the same grammar and vocabulary, cultural differences would still keep us apart. But really, is that such a bad thing? [...]

DL: AS-0329-2022