

GRAMMAR

a Complete the sentences with one word.

- 1 We need to _____ the heater repaired soon, before it starts getting cold.
- 2 The Chinese economy is growing and _____ a result, the standard of living is rising.
- 3 We were very late _____ of a traffic accident on the freeway.
- 4 Everybody seemed to enjoy the barbecue even _____ the weather wasn't very warm.
- 5 He wore a baggy shirt _____ people wouldn't notice that he'd gained weight.
- 6 Will the person who left _____ boarding pass at the security check point please go back and get it?
- 7 If we lived closer to _____ another, we'd probably spend more time together.
- 8 Sun-mee always seems pretty reserved to me—she never talks about _____.
- 9 When I was young, my family _____ spend every summer vacation at the beach.
- 10 This street looks different from when I was a child. Didn't _____ use to be a candy store on the corner?

b Rewrite the sentences using the **bold** word(s).

- 1 I need to pay someone to repair my glasses. **have**
I need _____.
- 2 If we buy a dishwasher, it won't be necessary to do the dishes. **have**
If we buy a dishwasher, _____.
- 3 The last time I saw him was in 2016. **seen**
I _____ 2016.
- 4 They managed to get here even though the traffic was heavy. **despite**
They managed to get here _____.
- 5 It was foggy, so the flight was canceled. **due**
The flight _____.
- 6 She wore dark glasses so that she wouldn't be recognized. **so as**
She wore dark glasses _____.
- 7 If you learn a few phrases, the local people really appreciate it. **one**
_____, the local people really appreciate it.
- 8 Mai-ting sees Martha once a month. **each**
Mai-ting and Martha _____ once a month.
- 9 The children wrapped the present on their own. **by**
The children wrapped the present _____.
- 10 My aunt always used to bake cookies for us. **would**
My aunt _____ for us.

VOCABULARY

a Complete the missing words.

- 1 He's a very unadventurous person—he doesn't like **ta** _____ **ri** _____.
- 2 They suddenly got married on vacation in Las Vegas—they're very **sp** _____.
- 3 She never asks for anyone's help. She's completely **se** _____ **su** _____.
- 4 He won't listen to me, but he might **ch** _____ his **mi** _____ if you talk to him.
- 5 My brother wasn't very **sy** _____ when I failed my driver's test—in fact, he just laughed!
- 6 She was **de** _____ to be a musician even as a girl.
- 7 She always finds a solution to problems—she's very **re** _____.
- 8 He seems tough, but **de** _____ **do** _____ he's quite sensitive.

b Complete the idioms with one word.

- 1 My kids can be a real _____ **in the neck** when we eat out—they're so picky!
- 2 My grandfather's always had a **short** _____. We were scared of him when we were young.
- 3 He can be a little bad-tempered, but he has a _____ **of gold**.
- 4 My boss is very **down to** _____; you can talk to her about anything.
- 5 I've read the instructions three times, but I still can't **get my** _____ **around** them.
- 6 What's that actor's name? It's **on the tip of my** _____!
- 7 You never have to wonder how Darla feels about current events. She always **speaks her** _____.

c Circle the right word or phrase.

- 1 She's been *under* / *out of* work since the restaurant she worked at suddenly closed.
- 2 I won't get that job; I don't have the *qualifications* / *benefits*.
- 3 He resigned before they could *quit* / *fire* him.
- 4 I'm hoping to get *promoted* / *a raise* to a more senior position.
- 5 I must have applied *for* / *to* dozens of jobs.
- 6 *Job-searching* / *Job-hunting* can be really demoralizing.
- 7 Factory work is usually very *monotonous* / *motivating*.
- 8 The manager is in charge of 400 *staff members* / *workforce*.

d Complete the sentences with the noun form of the bold word.

- 1 I wish there were more good restaurants in our _____. **neighbor**
- 2 There are classes available for people who have a _____ of flying. **afraid**
- 3 Don't let this misunderstanding get in the way of our _____. **friend**
- 4 The _____ of his job affected him very badly. **lose**
- 5 _____ of speech is a basic human right. **free**
- 6 The news of their engagement caused great _____. **excite**
- 7 My _____ is getting worse as I get older. **remember**

CAN YOU understand this text?

- a Read the article once. What main advantage of learning a second language does it describe?
- b Read the article again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).
 - 1 There had been other studies into bilingualism and the brain before Dr. Bak's.
 - 2 Not all the participants in the study spoke a second language when they were young.
 - 3 People who speak more than one language become more confused as they get older.
 - 4 Learning a second language as a child protects the brain more than learning it as an adult.
 - 5 It isn't known whether bilingual speakers suffer from dementia later than those who speak only one language.
- c Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases and figure out their meaning. Check with your teacher or with a dictionary.

▶ CAN YOU understand this movie?

Watch or listen to a short movie on the history of English and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

- 1 English has been changing for more than a thousand years.
- 2 The Latin-speaking Romans conquered the native Celts in AD 43.
- 3 The Anglo-Saxons came to Britain from northern France after the Romans left.
- 4 The Anglo-Saxons rejected the monks who wanted to convert them to Christianity.
- 5 The arrival of the Vikings gave English about 2,000 new words.
- 6 King Harold defeated the Vikings and then the Normans in just three weeks.
- 7 The Normans didn't introduce many French words.
- 8 Shakespeare gave English as many new words as the Vikings.
- 9 In the 20th century, British English "borrowed words" from American, but not vice versa.
- 10 Today there are more native than non-native speakers of English.



Speaking Two Languages May Slow Brain Aging

Just like exercise helps your body stay strong, exercising your mind also **keeps your brain sharp**. And what better way to do just that than by learning another language?

Indeed new research published in *Annals of Neurology* reveals that people who speak two or more languages—even those who learned the second language as adults—may slow down cognitive decline from aging. In the past, it hasn't been clear whether people improve their brain functions through learning new languages—or whether those with better cognitive abilities to begin with are more likely to be successful at learning another language.

"Our study is the first to examine whether learning a second language **impacts** cognitive performance later in life while controlling for childhood intelligence," said lead author Dr. Thomas Bak, of the University of Edinburgh. "Our study shows that bilingualism, even when acquired in adulthood, may **benefit** the aging brain."

For the study, researchers relied on data from 835 native speakers of English who were born and living in the area of Edinburgh, Scotland. The participants were given an intelligence test in 1947 at age 11 and then again in their early 70s, between 2008 and 2010.

Findings indicate that those who spoke two or more languages had significantly better cognitive abilities compared to what would be expected. The strongest effects were seen in general intelligence and reading. The effects were evident no matter when the second language was learned.

After reviewing the study, Dr. Alvaro Pascual-Leone, of the Harvard Medical School in Boston, said in a press release: "This research **paves the way** for future studies of bilingualism and the **prevention** of cognitive decline."

Another study of bilingualism in 2013 found that bilingual patients suffer the **onset** of dementia an average of 4.5 years later than those who speak only one language.

So what are you waiting for? Scientists say pretty much anyone can learn a new language, so no more excuses!

Glossary

cognitive connected with the mental processes of understanding

dementia /dɪ'menʃə/ a serious mental disorder caused by brain disease or injury that affects the ability to think, remember, and behave normally

