

2A COMMUNICATIVE All about English

- a** Read the comments from around the world about learning or using English. Is the situation the same or different in your country? How do you feel about it?

“If you ask me, the one thing that would really improve the level of English here would be if they stopped dubbing all the American movies and TV shows, and had them in English with subtitles. But I don’t think they’ll ever do it. The politicians wouldn’t dare.”

Carla, Venice, Italy



“At a lot of secondary schools in my country, the main aim is to get the children to pass written exams in English—spoken English isn’t evaluated. I feel that’s a mistake because later on in life it’s more important to speak the language rather than write it.”

Raquel, Santiago, Chile



“Some of my friends have studied English abroad during summer vacation. The ones who did courses in the US when they were younger are the ones whose level of English is really good. Personally, I feel that if you haven’t studied English in an English-speaking country, you’re at a bit of a disadvantage.”

Ahmad, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



“Some people don’t have the time or money to go to a language school to study English—I’m one of those. So, a few weeks ago I downloaded an app to help me learn English. I really like it—it lets me study whenever and wherever I want. And the downside? Perhaps that the app doesn’t really explain the grammar, but since I’ve never really liked grammar, that’s not a problem.”

Paolo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



“In my opinion, nowadays people in public life really ought to be able to speak good English. I feel really embarrassed when I hear how some of our politicians or public figures speak.”

Akiko, Osaka, Japan



“Personally, I think that pop groups in my country shouldn’t sing in English. I mean, I know it’s more universal, but they aren’t English, and not everybody in Hungary understands English. I think they should sing in Hungarian.”

András, Debrecen, Hungary



“In some secondary schools in my country they are now teaching other subjects like math and science in English, apart from the normal English language classes. In general, I think it’s a really good idea—as long as the teachers’ English is good, of course.”

Peng, Shanghai, China



“In French we use a lot of English words like weekend, news, leader, cool, OK—words like that. I personally hate it. I think we ought to use our own words for these things, not just borrow from English.”

Marc, Grenoble, France



- b** Talk to a partner and compare your ideas.