

WILL/MAY/MIGHT KEY

1. 1B will pass easily 2B. will find the way 3B will love it 4B will not believe it was you
5B will understand 6B will not sell out.
2. 1C 2B 3A 4D 5F 6E
3. 1 sure 2 not sure 3 won't 4 might not.
4. 2 may/might 3 won't 4 may/might 5 will 6 may/might.

READING COMPREHENSION KEY

1.- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 T

2.- 1 The results of the survey state that the British are officially the worst language learners in Europe. 2 The survey confirmed that English was the most widely-spoken foreign language. 3 It is more difficult to get good grades in languages than in other subjects. 4 One idea is to start much younger. 5 Mandarin Chinese is predicted to become the second most popular foreign language learned in UK schools. 6 It's not as difficult as I thought it would be. 7 Only French and Spanish are more popular than Mandarin Chinese. 8 China has the fastest-growing economy in the world.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Transcript

I want to talk about learning languages. I've lived in many different countries, both in Western Europe, Middle East and now here in Hong Kong. And during all of that time, I've learned five or six different languages to one degree or another. I love learning languages. Not only are they important when you move to a country, I just find them fascinating.

Before I came to Hong Kong, I lived in Barcelona, Spain, for ten years. And when I first arrived, the most important thing was being able to communicate with people locally. I don't attend classes. I don't think I'm particularly good in classes. I prefer to learn by just talking to people, finding out what I need to say, by looking at dictionaries and listening carefully.

Other things that helped me when I first moved to Spain were watching the typical kinds of programmes we see every day on channels around the world, for example the weather. This is great, because they always say the same things, so you can really quickly hear the same words repeated again and again. And the pictures help of course.

Other types of programme that helped me learn Spanish quickly were things like game shows, where the same thing happens. They have a catchphrase or a slogan that they repeat endlessly when contestants win or when they are called to compete.

As well as that, I used to pick up the Spanish newspapers. First of all, I just accepted there was no way I was going to understand anything but one or two words. But gradually, I found that I learned lots of new things about this. I was interested because I wanted to know what was happening in the country I lived in. But I also knew that I could learn a lot of language this way. So I'd take a dictionary with me sometimes, or I'd notice a word and I'd ask other people what ... it meant.

Anyway, by far the best practice I ever had was just talking to people in the street or in shops, where I'd rehearse in my head what I wanted to say beforehand, before I went in. Usually, I made a right mess of it first of all, but after you get over the embarrassment, it's quite funny really. And people are very sympathetic and supporting in most cases.

It took me a long time to develop a good level of Spanish. I lived there for ten years, and I think I'm very fluent now. But I think for the first two years that I was there it was quite a struggle to hold a decent conversation. There were always lots of words and expressions that I didn't pick up on. In particular with the colloquial expressions, idioms, that kind of thing, that people use in everyday talk, but you don't necessarily see written down. I didn't find those very easy to learn at all. But it was a lot of fun. And people, as I said, are really supporting when they know that you are genuinely interested in learning their language.

Task 1 1. c 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. a 6. c

Task 2 1. degree 2. find 3. typical 4. again 5. way 6. far 7. mess 8. over