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Level 4

Euro politicians told to stop speaking English

8th February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-4.html>

The European Parliament has asked politicians to speak more slowly and to use their own language instead of English. Many interpreters are having problems because politicians are speaking too fast. In addition, politicians who use English and not their native language make things more difficult for translators. A spokesman for the parliament said: "If the politicians speak a foreign language, the quality of interpretation goes down."

The European Parliament has 24 official languages. It employs around 330 interpreters to make sure everyone understands each other. There are an additional 1,800 freelancers. If everyone had to use their native language*, only British politicians could speak English. Many politicians like to use English so they do not confuse people with many interpreters. The parliament spends \$50 million a year on interpreters.

* 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>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. use their own language | a. for the parliament |
| 2. Many interpreters are | b. instead of English |
| 3. politicians are speaking too | c. goes down |
| 4. native | d. having problems |
| 5. make things more difficult | e. a foreign language |
| 6. A spokesman | f. fast |
| 7. the politicians speak | g. for translators |
| 8. the quality of interpretation | h. language |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The European Parliament has | a. freelancers |
| 2. It employs around | b. to use English |
| 3. make sure everyone | c. year on interpreters |
| 4. There are an additional 1,800 | d. 330 interpreters |
| 5. If everyone had to | e. people |
| 6. Many politicians like | f. 24 official languages |
| 7. confuse | g. use their native language |
| 8. The parliament spends \$50 million a | h. understands each other |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-4.html>

The European Parliament has asked politicians to (1) _____ and to use their (2) _____ of English. Many interpreters are having problems because politicians are (3) _____. In addition, politicians who use English (4) _____ native language (5) _____ difficult for translators. A spokesman for the parliament said: "If the politicians (6) _____ language, the quality of interpretation goes down."

The European Parliament has 24 (7) _____. It employs around 330 interpreters (8) _____ everyone understands each other. There (9) _____ 1,800 freelancers. If everyone (10) _____ native language, only British politicians could speak English. Many politicians like to use English (11) _____ confuse people with many interpreters. The parliament spends (12) _____ on interpreters.

INTERPRETERS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160208-interpreters-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

