

*Vocabulary: languages 词汇: 语言*

As you probably know, learning a **foreign language** is sometimes challenging. But it can also be fun. We spend hundreds of hours at school trying to **get our tongues round** different **vocabulary** and **grammar** in order to earn a **qualification**. But learning to speak a **second language** is more than just passing an exam – it **opens doors to** new opportunities, helps you to communicate with others and makes travelling overseas more fulfilling.

It might come as a surprise that, according to research by the BBC, the number of teenagers learning foreign languages in UK secondary schools has dropped by 45% since the turn of the millennium. **German** and **French** have fallen the most. While these languages from two of the UK's closest trading partners have declined at GCSE level, there has been a noticeable surge in some others, such as **Spanish** and **Mandarin**.

Another survey of secondary schools suggests a third of students have dropped at least one language from their GCSE exam options. There are many reasons for this, including a perception by some students that languages are difficult. **Getting to grips with the lingo** of another country can certainly be a challenge and some pupils think 'Why bother?' when English is spoken by hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Others have questioned the need for a second language when **translation** technology is advancing.

Matthew Fell, chief UK policy director for business group the CBI, has told the BBC that "The decline in language learning in schools must be reversed, or else the UK will be less competitive globally and young people less prepared for the modern world." But even for those who are keen to study another language, the opportunity is being reduced. In Scotland, for example, **foreign language subjects** are being squeezed out of many secondary school timetables with some head teachers blaming pressure on the **curriculum**.

However, some **native English speakers** have told the BBC about the benefits of speaking another **tongue**. Cassandra Scott, from Edinburgh, studied three languages in her final year at school. She is now a freelance **translator** in Edinburgh, and says "Learning languages at school really **set the course for my career**."

## 词汇表

<b>foreign language</b>	外语
<b>get your tongue round something</b>	“舌头转过弯来”，正确发出...音
<b>vocabulary</b>	词汇
<b>grammar</b>	语法
<b>qualification</b>	资格证书，文凭
<b>second language</b>	第二语言
<b>open doors to something</b>	为（新事物）敞开大门，使...成为可能
<b>German</b>	德语
<b>French</b>	法语
<b>Spanish</b>	西班牙语
<b>Mandarin</b>	普通话
<b>get to grips with</b>	理解，掌握
<b>lingo</b>	外语
<b>translation</b>	翻译
<b>foreign language subject</b>	外语学科
<b>curriculum</b>	全部课程
<b>native English speaker</b>	英语为母语者
<b>tongue</b>	语言
<b>translator</b>	译者，翻译家
<b>set the course for</b>	为...指明方向
<b>career</b>	职业

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Which languages have seen the biggest decline in British students learning them?
2. True or false? *Some students think translation technology can replace the need for learning another language.*
3. What is suggested in the article about the effects on global business if we don't learn to speak other languages?
4. Why might it be considered a surprise that the numbers of students learning French and German has declined so much?
5. Which word used in the article means needing a lot of effort to be done successfully?

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Having a degree in Economics certainly \_\_\_\_\_ to jobs in the banking sector.

opening doors	opened door	opens doors	door opens
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2. I thought my Italian penfriend said she was building a house, not moving house! Her message must have got lost in \_\_\_\_\_.

translator	tongue	translation	grammar
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3. My son has chosen to study three \_\_\_\_\_ at school so he can eventually get a job as a translator at the UN!

languages	Spanish	qualifications	curriculum
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4. I just can't \_\_\_\_\_ this new computer software, I'm going to have to phone IT support.

got to grips with	get too gripped with	get to grip with	get to grips with
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5. Although I speak Russian with my wife and her family, my mother \_\_\_\_\_ is actually English.

tongue	lingo	German	translator
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Which languages have seen the biggest decline in British students learning them?  
**In the UK, the number of teenagers learning foreign languages in UK secondary schools has dropped by 45% since the turn of the millennium, with German and French falling the most.**
2. True or false? *Some students think translation technology can replace the need for learning another language.*  
**True. The article says some students have questioned the need for a second language when translation technology is advancing.**
3. What is suggested in the article about the effects on global business if we don't learn to speak other languages?  
**Matthew Fell, chief UK policy director for business group the CBI has told the BBC that "The decline in language learning in schools must be reversed, or else the UK will be less competitive globally."**
4. Why might it be considered a surprise that the numbers of students learning French and German has declined so much?  
**These are the languages spoken in two of the UK's closest trading partners.**
5. Which word used in the article means needing a lot of effort to be done successfully?  
**Challenge. "Getting to grips with the lingo of another country can certainly be a challenge."**

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Having a degree in Economics certainly **opens doors** to jobs in the banking sector.
2. I thought my Italian penfriend said she was building a house, not moving house! Her message must have got lost in **translation**.
3. My son has chosen to study three **languages** at school so he can eventually get a job as a translator at the UN!
4. I just can't **get to grips with** this new computer software, I'm going to have to phone IT support.

5. Although I speak Russian with my wife and her family, my mother **tongue** is actually English.