

# EL Civics READER



## A WORLD OF MANY LANGUAGES

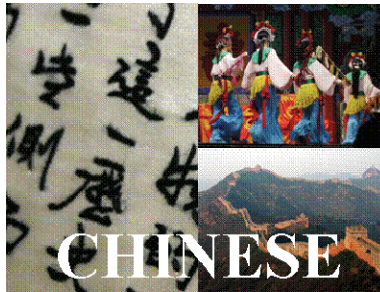


# Picture Story

## A WORLD OF MANY LANGUAGES



We live in a world of many languages. It is a multilingual world.



Chinese is the most common language in the world. Over a billion people speak Chinese.



Spanish is the second most common language. It is spoken by over 330 million people.



English is the third most common language. Around 320 million people in the world speak English.



English is the most common second language.



Each day, millions of people in many different countries try to learn English.



Depending on the native language, learning English can be more or less difficult.



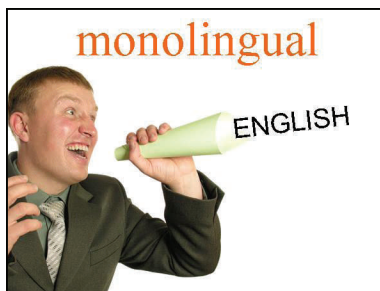
For example, if Chinese is the native language, the alphabet may be unfamiliar. None of the English words is familiar.



Also, English grammar is very different from Chinese grammar.

|            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| English    | Education is important.     |
| Spanish    | La educación es importante. |
| French     | L'éducation est importante. |
| Italian    | L'educazione è importante.  |
| Portuguese | A educação é importante.    |

But, if Spanish, French, Italian, or Portuguese is the native language, then English is not so difficult.



Some people in the world speak only one language; they are monolingual.



Other people speak two languages; they are bilingual.

# Picture Story

## A WORLD OF MANY LANGUAGES



Some people speak more than two languages; they are multilingual.



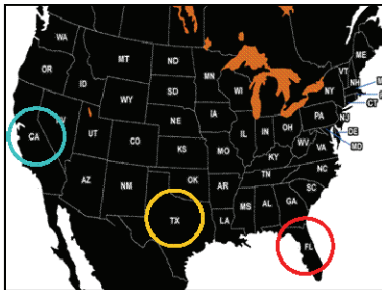
Most immigrants are bilingual or even trilingual.



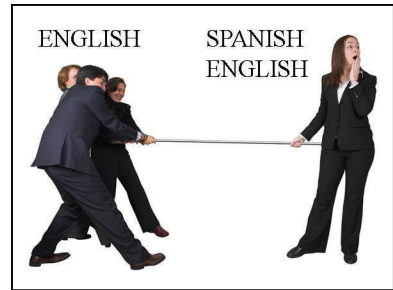
Many speak the language of their local region, the main language of their home country, and English.



People in the United States speak many languages.



California, Florida, and Texas are the states with the most bilingual adults.



People who are bilingual have many advantages.



Bilingual adults make more money, and they have more opportunities. It pays to learn another language.



## A WORLD OF MANY LANGUAGES!

**W**e live in a world of many languages. It is a multilingual world. Chinese is the most common language in the world. Over a billion people speak Chinese. Spanish is the second most common language. It is spoken by over 330 million people. English is the third most common language. Around 320 million people in the world speak English.

English is the most common second language. Each day, millions of people in many different countries try to learn English. Depending on the native language, learning English can be more or less difficult. For example, if Chinese is the native language, the alphabet may be unfamiliar. None of the English words is familiar. Also, English grammar is very different from Chinese grammar. But, if Spanish, French, Italian, or Portuguese is the native language, then English is not so difficult.

Some people in the world speak only one language; they are monolingual. Other people speak two languages; they are bilingual. Some people speak more than two languages; they are multilingual. Most immigrants are bilingual or even trilingual. Many speak the language of their local region, the main language of their home country, and English.

People in the United States speak many languages. California, Florida, and Texas are the states with the most bilingual adults. People who are bilingual have many advantages. Bilingual adults make more money, and they have more opportunities. It pays to learn another language.

# DICTIONARY

| <b>Words</b> | <b>Explanations</b>  |
|--------------|--|
| advantage    | a favorable position (Speaking two languages is an advantage.)   |
| alphabet     | a set of letters used in a language (The English alphabet has 26 letters.)                                 |
| around       | situated on all sides (It is dark all around.) (Different languages are spoken around the world.)          |
| bilingual    | able to speak two languages (The manager wanted to hire a person who is bilingual in English and Spanish.) |
| billion      | a thousand million (He has 3,000 million dollars. He is a billionaire.)                                    |
| build        | make something (I plan to build my house out of adobe.)  |
| California   | a state in the western U.S. (California is by the Pacific Ocean.)  |
| Chinese      | language of China and other places (Millions of people speak Chinese.)                                     |
| common       | shared by two or more (Our common language is English.)  |
| comprehend   | understand (It is impossible to comprehend the vastness of the universe.)                                  |
| country      | nation (I moved from my home country to the United States.)  |
| depending    | affected by other factors (We may need an umbrella, depending on the weather.)                             |
| different    | not like something, distinct, unusual (I like to wear clothes that are different from everyone else.)      |
| each         | every one (Each week has seven days.)  |
| familiar     | well known (I know him. His face looks familiar.)  |
| Florida      | a state in the south eastern U.S. (Florida is home to many immigrants.)                                    |
| French       | language of France and other countries   |
| grammar      | the system of rules for making sentences (English grammar is difficult.)                                   |
| identify     | recognize, name (The woman was able to identify the robber from his picture.)                              |
| if           | a condition or qualification (If I win the lottery, I will buy a big house.)                               |
| Italian      | language of Italy and other places (Pizza is a popular Italian food.)                                      |
| know         | be certain of something, realize something (I don't care what you say. I know I'm right!)                  |
| learning     | acquisition of knowledge (We are learning English.)  |
| live         | not dead, exist, experience (I am thirty years old and I still live with my parents.)                      |
| local        | a particular area, nearby (The local bank is across the street.)   |
| main         | principal (The main idea of this text is to use English every day.)  |
| monolingual  | speaking only one language (I am monolingual. I only speak English.)                                       |
| most         | majority (Most Americans speak English.)   |
| multilingual | speaking many languages (She speaks three languages. She is multilingual.)                                 |
| none         | not any (None of us live to be 150 years old.)   |
| over         | more than (Over 106 million people live in Mexico.)  |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| pay        | give money for something (I need to pay the electric bill.)  |
| Portuguese | language of Brazil and Portugal and other places   |
| second     | after first (He won second place. He got a silver medal.)  |
| similar    | alike, sharing similar qualities (Many words in English and Spanish are similar. No words in English and Chinese are similar.) |
| Spanish    | language of Mexico and Spain and other places  |
| speak      | talk (Speak slowly, please.)   |
| spoken     | speak, spoke, spoken (English is spoken in the U.S. and in England.)   |
| structure  | something that is built, the arrangement of things (The Eiffel Tower is a large and beautiful structure.)                      |
| third      | after second (If you win third place in the Olympics, you get a bronze medal.)   |
| trilingual | able to speak three languages (My neighbor is trilingual. She speaks English, Spanish, and Chinese.)                           |
| unfamiliar | not known or recognized (I don't know this word. It is unfamiliar.)  |
| use        | do something with something (I will need a hammer to drive the nail.)  |
| vocabulary | words and meanings a person knows (My brother has a huge vocabulary. He always seems to know the right words to say.)          |
| word       | a unit of language (His words made me laugh.)  |
| world      | planet (I want to take a trip around the world.)   |

| <b>Phrases</b>  | <b>Explanations</b>   |
|-----------------|---|
| home country    | birth place (My home country is Mexico.)  |
| in addition     | also, as well as (In addition, I think she is attractive as well as smart.)                 |
| it pays         | it's beneficial (It pays to be bilingual.)  |
| less difficult  | easier, not so difficult (For me, reading English is less difficult than speaking English.) |
| native language | first language (My native language is Spanish.)   |