1. Circle the correct option. (1 point each)

1. There are 6,800 idioms / languages in the world.
2. English is a scientific / an international language for communication.
3. There are more non-native speakers than original / native speakers who speak English.
4. The iPod and MP3 are modern international / technical inventions.
5. Many people have to study English to borrow / communicate in it.

2. Match the two halves of these signs. (1 point each)

f. Meeting
a. zone
b. parking
c. enter
d. please
e. out
f. point

3. Complete the sentences with the words in the box. (1 point each)

volcano  coffee  hamburger
iPod  pizza

1. Don’t drop your iPod or it may break.
2. I don’t want to live near an active volcano.
3. Since there are four of us, each one should get two slices of hamburger.
4. Neil doesn’t like onions on his pizza.
5. Would you like cream and sugar in your coffee?

4. Write affirmative (+) and negative (-) sentences. Use the cues. (3 points each)

1. She / like / wash dishes (-)
She doesn’t like washing dishes.

2. Jack / love / do math problems (+)

3. My parents / like / watch the news every evening (+)

4. I / mind / walk the neighbor’s dog (-)

5. He / like / drive in the rain (-)

5. Use can or can’t to complete the sentences. (1 point each)

1. Mia can play the guitar. Her father taught her to play it.
2. No, I can’t swim. I never took swimming lessons.
3. Heather can ride a bike, but she can’t skateboard.
4. My brother and I can’t play tennis. We’re not very good players though.
5. She can’t predict the future. She has special powers.
6. They can’t discuss the topic. They haven’t done any research at all.

6. Write could or couldn’t to complete the sentences. (1 point each)

1. She was very shy about speaking French. She couldn’t pronounce the words very well.
2. Last year, I could hit a baseball very well. Now, I’m so much better at it.
3. He could play the piano when he was three years old. Everyone thought he was a genius.
4. They couldn’t dance the tango when they were younger. Now, they’d rather sit and watch other couples dance.
5. Ashley could bake special cakes, so she enrolled in a baking class to learn how to do it.
The Mandarin Language

Mandarin is the official language of the People’s Republic of China. Mandarin is spoken by over 720 million people in China; that is, 70 percent of the population. There are also many Mandarin speakers in other countries, such as Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia. More people in the world speak Mandarin than any other language. Around one billion people speak Mandarin.

The grammar of Mandarin is not complicated. Compared to other languages, Mandarin word structure is also simple. However, the writing system is more complex and has little relation to the spoken language. It is based on written symbols or characters and is over two thousand years old.

Today more and more people around the world are learning Mandarin. Perhaps in the future, Mandarin will become the language of international communication. So start learning now!

1. In what country is Mandarin the official language?
   
The People’s Republic of China

2. How many people in China speak Mandarin?

3. In what other countries is Mandarin spoken?

4. How many people in the world speak Mandarin?

5. Is Mandarin grammar difficult?

6. Is the written Mandarin easy?

7. Is written Mandarin closely related to spoken Mandarin?

8. What is written Mandarin based on?

9. How old is written Mandarin?

10. Is Mandarin the language of international communication today?

The People’s Republic of China

Excuse me, are you Jamie?