

I. Let's get to know each other. Introduce yourself and tell when you first began learning English.

II. Choose a partner from your group and discuss the following:

1. What is your partner's mother tongue?
2. Do you enjoy learning other languages?
3. How many languages do you speak?
4. How many languages are spoken in your country?
5. Do most people in your country speak more than one language?
6. Is it important that your children learn to speak more than one language?
7. Are you bilingual or multilingual?
8. Are you more comfortable writing, reading or speaking English?
9. Do you struggle to make yourself understood here? Is that a surprise to you? Did you expect that everyone would be able to understand your English?
10. Is knowing English helpful for your career in your country?

III. Back in the large group, report on what you learned about your partner.

IV. Choose a different partner and discuss these questions. When you are back in your group, tell about your discussion with your partner.

1. Americans often speak to people they don't know. Does that seem odd to you? Would this happen in your country?
2. Is it easy for you to talk to people you don't know?
3. How is your grandmother's conversation with friends different from yours?
4. Do you communicate with friends by texting more than talking?
5. How have smartphones changed communication? Do you think it has been a change for the better or for the worse?

V. Explain what these sentences mean.

1. I've been living abroad for over a year now.
2. John is going overseas to live.
3. My daughter is in France on a study abroad program.
4. He is doing a cross country bike ride.
5. I think travel broadens the mind.
6. When I travel, I like to go off the beaten path.
7. Hauling heavy luggage around is no fun. I like to travel light.
8. Colby travels for work, so he enjoys staying home when he has time off.
9. Hearing foul language upsets me.

10. That young man was swearing. I told him to watch his tongue!
11. Those are strong words. I didn't know you felt that way.
12. That teacher is hard to understand. She talks a mile a minute.

VI. TOEFL- is an acronym (a word formed from the first letters) for Test Of English as a Foreign Language. It is a test required by most American universities. The purpose of the test is to evaluate the ability of the student to use and understand English in an academic setting. A TOEFL score is good for two years. After that you must take the TOEFL again. Most universities will only recognize your most recent score. Most universities have a minimum required score on the TOEFL.

Have you taken the TOEFL?

Did you find it difficult?

Are you interested in practicing TOEFL questions in this class?

Do you think it is fair for universities to require this test?

The two questions below are sample TOEFL questions. Read and discuss the correct answer.

Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes _____ they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface.

1. due to
2. because
3. in spite of
4. regardless of

During the early period of ocean navigation, _____ any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques.

1. so that hardly
2. where there hardly was
3. hardly was
4. there was hardly