

Topic: Languages

Consider the statements below on the English Language

Talk to each other about how these statements represent different aspects of the status of English as an international language these days.

Then decide together which of the statements best reflects the **most important challenge for the future of English**.

- At the recent World Cup, Google Translate was being used as a means of communicating between fans who did not share a common language. Instant translation technology isn't perfect by any means, but it will get better. This could erode one of the unique advantages of learning English above all other languages.
- Some languages are so grandiose as to take over, maybe not the world but a whole world-region. Latin was one such language, but what became of it? French, Italian, Spanish, Catalan, Romanian, that's what. In written form Latin remained usable, but gradually less useful. You can bet this is already happening to English: we sometimes need subtitles when a dialect speaker appears on TV, and fragmentation will only increase.
- Transnational lingua francas, once established, always give off an aura of permanence. Yet when circumstances change, they fall. And the change is clearly coming. The natural expectation will be that after the new powers, such as China, India or Brazil, establish themselves economically and politically, their linguistic and cultural influence too will come to be felt, among those who want to do business with them.

You must both talk about all three statements.

You needn't reach an agreement but you have to support your arguments.