

Part 3: Listening comprehension

“BUTTER, BREAD AND GREEN CHEESE...”

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

grant: atorgar / otorgar

threat: ameaça / amenaza

huge: enorme

overwhelming: aclaparador / apabullante

detrimental: perjudicial

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the interview.

“Butter, bread and green cheese... is good English and good Friesian.” This saying refers to the similarities between English and Frisian, a language spoken on the Northern coast of Holland which is closer to English than any other language, including German and Dutch. In the following conversation, Tracy Gallagher interviews Matthias Paulsen, a professor of Frisian language and literature at the University of Nijmegen in Holland who has just written a book about Frisian.

[Now listen to the interview.]

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.

[0.25 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

Look at number 0 as an example.

0. The Frisian language...
 - ☐ is closest to German and Dutch
 - ☒ is the closest language to English
 - ☐ is spoken on the northern coast of England
 - ☐ is a mixture of German and Dutch
1. How many Frisian speakers are there?
 - ☐ There are just over 400.000 monolingual speakers of Frisian.
 - ☐ There are 400.000 in Denmark.
 - ☐ Just over 400.000.
 - ☐ Less than 400.000.
2. In 1956...
 - ☐ Frisian was given official status in Holland.
 - ☐ Frisian was officially recognized as a 'country' language.
 - ☐ the name of the language was changed to 'Fryslân'.
 - ☐ Frisian was declared an official language in Germany.
3. What is the situation of Frisian in schools?
 - ☐ Children can attend Frisian schools only on the islands.
 - ☐ It is taught in schools.
 - ☐ It is only taught at university.
 - ☐ It can only be taught in schools in remote rural areas.
4. In their relationship with the administration...
 - ☐ people use Frisian when they are accompanied by their family.
 - ☐ people hardly ever use Frisian.
 - ☐ Frisian is never used.
 - ☐ Frisian speakers use Frisian exclusively.
5. What is the presence of Frisian in the media?
 - ☐ There are no media in Frisian.
 - ☐ There are some newspapers that publish exclusively in Frisian.
 - ☐ There is no Frisian TV, but there is Frisian radio.
 - ☐ There is no Frisian TV or radio, but there are some Frisian newspapers.
6. According to Professor Paulsen, one of the threats to the survival of Frisian is the fact that...
 - ☐ speaking Frisian distracts them from learning Dutch.
 - ☐ most Frisian speakers watch TV and use the Internet.
 - ☐ most Frisian speakers are bilingual.
 - ☐ it has more speakers than Icelandic.
7. What is the most important thing that needs to be done to ensure the survival of Frisian?
 - ☐ The language must be taught to the new generations.
 - ☐ Frisian speakers need to lose the language and then bring it back.
 - ☐ The language needs to be taught by children.
 - ☐ Frisian speakers must use their language in serious situations.
8. Green cheese is...
 - ☐ loved more than blue cheese in Fryslân.
 - ☐ only eaten in Fryslân but not in England.
 - ☐ only part of a saying about the resemblance between Frisian and English.
 - ☐ very popular in Fryslân and in England.

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