



“Our language speaks about us”



Discuss in pairs: Have you ever wondered why some people see things differently than you do?

1) a. Read the text and answer the questions:

HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES HOW WE SEE THE WORLD AND NATURE

1. Language and Colours: Seeing the World Differently

Let's start with colours. Imagine arguing with a friend about whether a shirt is blue or green. Different languages can make us see colours in different ways. For example, in Russian, there are two different words for light blue and dark blue. Because of this, Russian speakers notice these shades more easily than English speakers, who just call everything “blue”. And then there's how we talk about directions. Some people use “left” and “right” to describe where things are, but in some Indigenous Australian languages, people use “north,” “south,” “east,” and “west” instead. This means they always know where they are, like having a compass in their brain!

2. Gender in Language: Words that Change How We Think

Did you know that some languages give gender to objects? In German, the word for “bridge” is feminine, so people often describe bridges as “beautiful” or “elegant.” In Spanish, “bridge” is masculine, so they describe it as “strong” or “sturdy.” The gender of words can change how we think about the things they represent, even if we don't realise it.

3. Language and Nature: Seeing the World as Alive

Now, let's talk about how we see nature. In some Indigenous languages, like those spoken by Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest, natural things like rivers and trees are seen as alive. These languages treat nature as if it had its own life. So, people who speak these languages might respect and care for nature especially, because to them, it's like the trees and rivers are living beings. This shows that the way we talk about the environment can affect how we treat it.

4. Time and Language: How We Think About Time

What do you think about time? Do you imagine it as a straight line, with the past behind you and the future ahead? In English, that's pretty common. But in some other languages, people see time differently. For example, in Mandarin Chinese, people might imagine the past as being “up” and the future as “down.” And in the Hopi language, spoken by the Hopi people in the United States, time isn't really about the past, present, or future. It's more about whether something is happening right now. Language can totally change how we think about time!

Remember ...

So, next time you describe something, remember that your words do more than just name things. They shape how you see and think about the world. Whether it's the colours you see, how you think about time, or how you feel about nature, language is quietly guiding your thoughts. And with so many languages in the world, each one offers a new way to see things. Pretty cool, right?

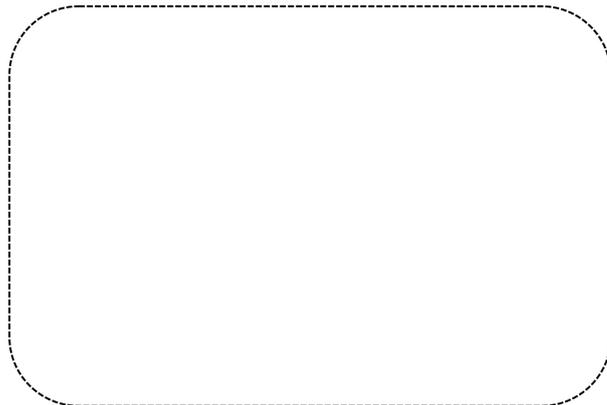
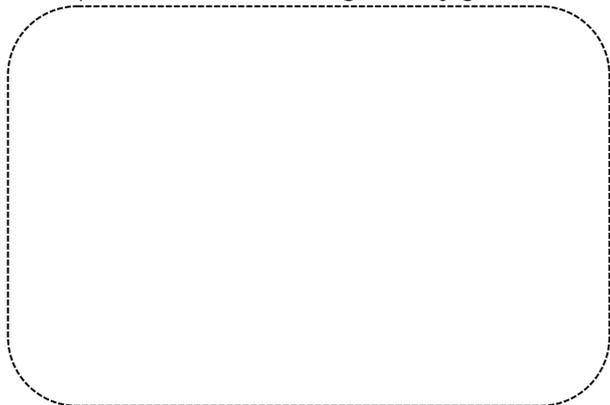
Texto adaptado de: Islcollective.com

1. Why do Russian speakers notice light blue and dark blue more easily?
2. Which common word do people in Germany use to describe a bridge? Why?
3. How do some Indigenous languages of the Pacific Northwest see rivers and trees?
4. How do many English speakers imagine time?
5. How does language shape our thoughts?

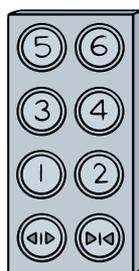


b) Divide your page into two halves and draw:

- On the Left: Draw a "German Bridge." Based on the text, use colors and details that make it look elegant or beautiful.
- On the Right: Draw a "Spanish Bridge." Use details that make it look strong and sturdy.
- Caption: Write one sentence for each bridge using an adjective from the text.
 - Example: "The German bridge is very graceful."



2) Look at the list of life events below. Organize them in a vertical "Time Elevator" based on the Mandarin perspective. Put the oldest events at the top and the future events at the bottom.



- | | |
|--|---|
| A. The day you started primary school. | G. Next year's celebration. |
| B. Yesterday's dinner. | H. When you finish this English course. |
| C. Your 10th birthday party. | I. Your high school graduation. |
| D. Your last summer holiday. | J. Your 50th birthday. |
| E. Your 80th birthday. | K. Next Monday. |
| F. Tonight's homework. | L. The day you were born. |

Informal/Slang English: Slang is a vocabulary (words, phrases, and linguistic usages) of an informal register, common in everyday conversation but avoided in formal writing and speech.

3) Match the expressions 1 to 5 with their meanings A to E

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Are you coming, honey? The weather is awesome!
Let's catch some rays. | A. boss / be relaxed. |
| 2. I'm gonna hit the sack, baby. Hmmm..... I'll be an early bird tomorrow. | B. look carefully / a place to live. |
| 3. I'm keeping my eyes peeled , but I can't find myself a nice pad. | C. something very nice or good / get sunlight. |
| 4. I'm glad the holidays are over. My rug rats were fighting the whole time! | D. happy / kids. |
| 5. I think our honcho needs to be more laid-back towards us. | E. go to bed / someone who's getting up early |

Useful expressions

- It's raining cats and dogs** → Llueve a cántaros.
- Break the ice** → Romper el hielo en una conversación.
- Hit the books** → Ponerse a estudiar.
- Piece of cake** → Algo muy fácil.
- Spill the beans** → Contar un secreto.
- Under the weather** → Sentirse mal/enfermo.
- Hangry** → Estar hambriento y enojado.
- Once in a blue Moon** → Algo que sucede muy rara vez.
- The ball is in your court** → Te toca decidir o actuar.
- Burn the midnight oil** → Trabajar/estudiar hasta muy tarde.

3) Put the conversation in the correct order. Write the numbers 1 to 10 in the boxes:

- ___ **Santi:** I know, I know. But I also need to tell you something... I accidentally spilled the beans to the teacher about our surprise party for Ana!
- ___ **Luli:** Really? No way! Well, I can't think about that now. I have a huge exam tomorrow, so I need to hit the books all afternoon.
- ___ **Santi:** Wow, you're really going to burn the midnight oil! Do you want to take a break and grab a burger first?
- ___ **Luli:** Don't worry, it's a piece of cake. I studied all last week!
- ___ **Santi:** Hey Luli! Why are you so quiet? Let's break the ice—is everything okay?
- ___ **Luli:** Oh, Santi... I'm just feeling a bit under the weather. My head hurts and I'm exhausted.
- ___ **Santi:** Good luck! I guess the ball is in your court now. Call me when you finish!
- ___ **Luli:** No thanks. I'm actually hangry right now, but if I eat, I'll get sleepy. I need to focus.
- ___ **Santi:** That's a surprise! You usually study once in a blue moon, but now you're being very serious.
- ___ **Luli:** I have to! Look outside, it's raining cats and dogs, so it's the perfect day to stay inside and study anyway.

