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## **Level 4**

### **UK leader tells schools - teach Mandarin, not French**

**10th December, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-4.html>

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**Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-4.html>

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron has said British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French or German. He will double the number of students studying Chinese in the UK to 400,000 by 2016. He will also give extra money to schools that teach Mandarin. Mr Cameron said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to seal tomorrow's business deals."

Mr Cameron explained that by the time children leave school, China will be the world's largest economy, so he wants to change from French and German to Mandarin. The British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language will double the number of Chinese language assistants in the UK. The British Council said Mandarin is one of the top five most important languages for British children to study for their future job hunting.

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2518549/David-Cameron-Pupils-ditch-French-German-study-Mandarin-instead.html>  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/056eb1da-5ccd-11e3-81bd-00144feabdc0.html#ixzz2mmTQs0sE>  
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/david-cameron-ditch-french-and-german-for-mandarin-lessons-29811883.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. teach Mandarin                 | a. that teach Mandarin |
| 2. double the                     | b. in the UK           |
| 3. studying Chinese               | c. business deals      |
| 4. give extra money to schools    | d. growing economies   |
| 5. linked up to the world's fast- | e. instead of French   |
| 6. seal tomorrow's                | f. number of students  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. by the time              | a. economy               |
| 2. the world's largest      | b. as a foreign language |
| 3. teaching Mandarin        | c. job hunting           |
| 4. language                 | d. children leave school |
| 5. one of the top five most | e. assistants            |
| 6. study for their future   | f. important languages   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-4.html>

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (1) \_\_\_\_\_ should teach Mandarin instead of French or German. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of students studying Chinese in the UK to 400,000 by 2016. He will also give (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that teach Mandarin. Mr Cameron said: "I want Britain (4) \_\_\_\_\_ world's fast-growing economies, and that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ learning the languages to seal (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

Mr Cameron explained (7) \_\_\_\_\_ children leave school, China will be the world's (8) \_\_\_\_\_, so he wants to change from French and German to Mandarin. The British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin (9) \_\_\_\_\_ will double the number of Chinese (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in the UK. The British Council said Mandarin is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ five most important languages for British children to study for their (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# MANDARIN SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Mandarin in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin-4.html>

Write about **Mandarin** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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