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## Level 6

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

10th December, 2013

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

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is implementing a big change in the languages taught in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told journalists that British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French and German. He told his hosts that he plans to double the number of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the next three years. He will also provide subsidies to schools that start teaching Mandarin. He believes stronger educational ties with China are a necessary element in keeping Britain competitive in the Chinese market. He 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 to journalists the importance of introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China is set to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look beyond the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The initiative includes a tie-up with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language. They have already signed an agreement to double the number of Chinese language assistants in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five most important languages for British children to study to improve their job prospects.

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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. MANDARIN:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Mandarin. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*big change / journalists / hosts / subsidies / competitive / learning / business deals / importance / traditional / focus / initiative / foreign language / double / assistants*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. LANGUAGE:** Which is better to study, English or Mandarin? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why English is better	Why Mandarin is better
Writing		
Internet		
Business		
Fun		
Culture		
Friends		

**4. GLOBAL LANGUAGE:** Students A **strongly** believe Mandarin will overtake English as the world's most important language; Students B **strongly** believe this will never happen. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. LANGUAGES:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the language you most want to study at the top. Change partners often.

- Spanish
- Hindi
- Russian
- Arabic
- Mandarin
- Japanese
- Portuguese
- Swahili

**6. TEACHING:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "teaching". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. David Cameron is removing French from the curriculum in UK schools.   | T / F |
| b. The British Prime Minister was speaking to reporters in China.        | T / F |
| c. There will be 400,000 Mandarin teachers in Britain by 2016.           | T / F |
| d. Mr Cameron said Britain is one of the world's fast-growing economies. | T / F |
| e. Cameron said China will become the world's biggest economy.           | T / F |
| f. The British leader said more children should also learn German.       | T / F |
| g. The number of Chinese language assistants in UK schools will double.  | T / F |
| h. The British Council said Mandarin will help people find jobs.         | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. implementing | a. reporters       |
| 2. provide      | b. agreements      |
| 3. ties         | c. further on than |
| 4. seal         | d. links           |
| 5. deals        | e. carrying out    |
| 6. journalists  | f. emphasis        |
| 7. beyond       | g. penned / inked  |
| 8. focus        | h. offer           |
| 9. signed       | i. chances         |
| 10. prospects   | j. conclude        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. David Cameron is implementing  | a. ties with China         |
| 2. he plans to                    | b. the traditional focus   |
| 3. stronger educational           | c. business deals          |
| 4. linked up to the world's fast- | d. assistants              |
| 5. seal tomorrow's                | e. introducing Mandarin    |
| 6. the importance of              | f. world's largest economy |
| 7. set to be the                  | g. growing economies       |
| 8. it's time to look beyond       | h. a big change            |
| 9. language                       | i. prospects               |
| 10. study to improve their job    | j. double the number       |

# GAP FILL

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

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a big change in the languages taught in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French and German. He told his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that he plans to double the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the next three years. He will also (5) \_\_\_\_\_ subsidies to schools that start teaching Mandarin. He believes stronger (6) \_\_\_\_\_ ties with China are a necessary element in keeping Britain competitive in the Chinese market. He said: "I want Britain (7) \_\_\_\_\_ up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow's business deals."

*number*  
*linked*  
*seal*  
*implementing*  
*provide*  
*journalists*  
*educational*  
*hosts*

Mr Cameron (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to journalists the importance of introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The (12) \_\_\_\_\_ includes a tie-up with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language. They have already signed an (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to double the number of Chinese language (14) \_\_\_\_\_ in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin in the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ five most important languages for British children to study to improve their job (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*beyond*  
*assistants*  
*set*  
*agreement*  
*prospects*  
*explained*  
*top*  
*initiative*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron \_\_\_\_\_ a big change
  - a. is implementation
  - b. is implemented
  - c. is implementing
  - d. is implement in
- 2) He will also provide \_\_\_\_\_ schools that start teaching Mandarin.
  - a. subsidies to
  - b. subsidise to
  - c. subsidises to
  - d. subsidies to
- 3) He believes stronger educational ties with China are a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. necessary elementary
  - b. necessary element
  - c. necessary elemental
  - d. necessary elements
- 4) I want Britain linked up to the world's \_\_\_\_\_ economies
  - a. fast-grown
  - b. fast-grow in
  - c. fast-growing
  - d. fast-growth
- 5) learning the languages to seal tomorrow's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. business seals
  - b. business meals
  - c. business peals
  - d. business deals
- 6) Mr Cameron explained to journalists the importance \_\_\_\_\_ Mandarin in UK schools
  - a. of introduce in
  - b. of introducing
  - c. of introduction
  - d. of intro producing
- 7) China \_\_\_\_\_ the world's largest economy
  - a. is set to be
  - b. is yet to be
  - c. is bet to be
  - d. is let to be
- 8) it's time to \_\_\_\_\_ the traditional focus on French and German
  - a. look be yonder
  - b. look beneath
  - c. look behind
  - d. look beyond
- 9) They have already signed an agreement \_\_\_\_\_ number
  - a. to triple the
  - b. to quadruple the
  - c. to double the
  - d. to dabble the
- 10) important languages for British children to study to improve \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their job prospectus
  - b. their job prospects
  - c. their job prospectors
  - d. their job prospect

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (1) \_\_\_\_\_ big change in the languages taught in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told journalists that British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French and German. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ plans to double the number of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the next three years. He will also (3) \_\_\_\_\_ schools that start teaching Mandarin. He believes stronger (4) \_\_\_\_\_ China are a necessary (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Britain competitive in the Chinese market. He said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ deals."

Mr Cameron explained to journalists (7) \_\_\_\_\_ introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China (8) \_\_\_\_\_ world's largest economy, so it's time to look (9) \_\_\_\_\_ focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ tie-up with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language. They have already (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to double the number of Chinese language assistants in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five most important languages for British children to study to improve (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. In which country did David Cameron talk about his education plans?

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2. How many students will be studying Chinese in the next three years?

---

3. What will schools receive for starting to teach Mandarin?

---

4. What does David Cameron want Britain to be in China?

---

5. What does David Cameron want young people to sign?

---

6. To whom did Mr Cameron talk about the importance of Mandarin?

---

7. What does Cameron want people to look beyond?

---

8. What has the British Council agreed with its Chinese counterpart?

---

9. Where did the British Council rank Mandarin in terms of importance?

---

10. According to the British Council, how will Mandarin help British kids?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. In which country did David Cameron talk about his education plans?
  - a) England
  - b) China
  - c) Germany
  - d) France
2. How many students will be studying Chinese in the next three years?
  - a) 440,000
  - b) four million
  - c) 40 thousand
  - d) 400,000
3. What will schools receive for starting to teach Mandarin?
  - a) subsidies
  - b) books
  - c) computers
  - d) new buildings
4. What does David Cameron want Britain to be in China?
  - a) a leader
  - b) number one
  - c) competitive
  - d) a cultural guide
5. What does David Cameron want young people to sign?
  - a) learning contracts
  - b) business deals
  - c) autographs
  - d) the back of their credit cards
6. To whom did Mr Cameron talk about the importance of Mandarin?
  - a) schoolchildren
  - b) language assistants
  - c) journalists
  - d) French teachers
7. What does Cameron want people to look beyond?
  - a) the horizon
  - b) textbooks
  - c) cultural boundaries
  - d) the focus on French and German
8. What has the British Council agreed with its Chinese counterpart?
  - a) to have more Chinese teachers
  - b) to stop teaching French
  - c) to share resources
  - d) to only use Mandarin in class
9. Where did the British Council rank Mandarin in terms of importance?
  - a) in the top five
  - b) number one
  - c) third
  - d) in China
10. According to the British Council, how will Mandarin help British kids?
  - a) with understanding Chinese movies
  - b) with job hunting
  - c) with learning
  - d) with intercultural relationships

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Mandarin**

You think Mandarin is the most important language to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with their language. Also, tell them which is the least important of these (and why): Arabic, Spanish or English.

## **Role B – Arabic**

You think Arabic is the most important language to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with their language. Also, tell them which is the least important of these (and why): Mandarin, Spanish or English.

## **Role C – Spanish**

You think Spanish is the most important language to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with their language. Also, tell them which is the least important of these (and why): Arabic, Mandarin or English.

## **Role D – English**

You think English is the most important language to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with their language. Also, tell them which is the least important of these (and why): Arabic, Spanish or Mandarin.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'French' and 'German'.

French	German

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• big</li><li>• hosts</li><li>• three</li><li>• ties</li><li>• linked</li><li>• deals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• importance</li><li>• born</li><li>• beyond</li><li>• office</li><li>• puts</li><li>• jobs</li></ul>
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# MANDARIN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131210-mandarin.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.

# MANDARIN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Mandarin'?
- c) How important is Mandarin?
- d) Are the languages taught in schools in your country very useful?
- e) How important are French and German?
- f) Will countries whose schools teach Mandarin do better in the world?
- g) What other languages would you like to study?
- h) Why is learning another language good for us?
- i) Are young people lucky today with the language-learning opportunities available?

*UK leader tells schools - teach Mandarin, not French - 10th December, 2013*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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# MANDARIN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How important is Mandarin compared with English?
- c) How will China becoming the biggest economy change the world?
- d) Why do you think British schools traditionally taught French and German?
- e) Do you think Mandarin will become the world's global language?
- f) Have you noticed Mandarin becoming more important in your country?
- g) How important is your language in the world?
- h) Would you like a job in which you need to speak another language?
- i) What questions would you like to ask a Mandarin teacher?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a big change in the languages taught in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told journalists that British schools should teach Mandarin (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of French and German. He told his hosts that he plans to double the number of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the next three years. He will also provide (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to schools that start teaching Mandarin. He believes stronger educational (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with China are a necessary element in keeping Britain competitive in the Chinese market. He said: "I want Britain linked (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow's business deals."

Mr Cameron explained to journalists the importance (7) \_\_\_\_\_ introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The initiative includes a tie-up with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a foreign language. They have already signed an agreement to double the number of Chinese language (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five most important languages for British children to study to improve their job (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                  |                   |                   |
|-----|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) implanting | (b) implementing | (c) complimenting | (d) complementing |
| 2.  | (a) rather     | (b) instead      | (c) preference    | (d) over          |
| 3.  | (a) subtitles  | (b) subsidies    | (c) subsidise     | (d) subsidies     |
| 4.  | (a) pins       | (b) ties         | (c) knots         | (d) liaisons      |
| 5.  | (a) on         | (b) at           | (c) down          | (d) up            |
| 6.  | (a) deals      | (b) heals        | (c) seals         | (d) meals         |
| 7.  | (a) of         | (b) from         | (c) at            | (d) as            |
| 8.  | (a) get        | (b) let          | (c) set           | (d) bet           |
| 9.  | (a) beneath    | (b) between      | (c) behest        | (d) beyond        |
| 10. | (a) as         | (b) has          | (c) is            | (d) was           |
| 11. | (a) assistants | (b) assistance   | (c) assists       | (d) assisted      |
| 12. | (a) prospects  | (b) chancing     | (c) opportune     | (d) expects       |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. tgipmelmenin a big change
2. he told nrstsoujila
3. provide dsbiseisu to schools
4. stronger dlaceontaiu ties
5. a necessary eteemnl
6. the world's fast-growing meioeoscn

## Paragraph 2

7. the importance of rcniugdotin Mandarin
8. look beyond the attdraliino focus
9. The ieittaivin includes a tie-up with the British Council
10. Chinese language sassasitnt
11. study to porvmei
12. job pcpsteors



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) beyond the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The initiative includes a tie-
- ( ) growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the languages to seal tomorrow's business deals."
- ( ) up with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign
- ( **1** ) Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is implementing a big change in the languages taught
- ( ) competitive in the Chinese market. He said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-
- ( ) most important languages for British children to study to improve their job prospects.
- ( ) assistants in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five
- ( ) of French and German. He told his hosts that he plans to double the number of
- ( ) Mr Cameron explained to journalists the importance of introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the
- ( ) teaching Mandarin. He believes stronger educational ties with China are a necessary element in keeping Britain
- ( ) students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the next three years. He will also provide subsidies to schools that start
- ( ) in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told journalists that British schools should teach Mandarin instead
- ( ) language. They have already signed an agreement to double the number of Chinese language
- ( ) time the children born today leave school, China is set to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. in Implementing the a languages big taught change.

---

2. Chinese studying students of number the Double.

---

3. Stronger with a ties are element educational China necessary.

---

4. up world's growing Linked the - to fast economies.

---

5. business languages deals to seal Learning tomorrow's the.

---

6. children leave By the today time born school the.

---

7. largest China to world's set the economy is be.

---

8. British the with up - tie a includes initiative The Council.

---

9. number Signed . an agreement to double the

---

10. most top for important five British languages The children.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is *implanting / implementing* a big change in the languages *taught / teaching* in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told journalists that British schools should teach Mandarin *instead / rather* of French and German. He told his *heists / hosts* that he plans to double the number of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the *next / last* three years. He will also provide *subdivides / subsidies* to schools that start teaching Mandarin. He *believes / beliefs* stronger educational ties with China are a *necessary / necessarily* element in keeping Britain competitive in the Chinese market. He said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that *excludes / includes* our young people learning the languages to *seal / deal* tomorrow's business deals."

Mr Cameron explained to journalists the importance *by / of* introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the *time / timing* the children born today leave school, China is *set / let* to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look *yonder / beyond* the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children *learning / learned* Mandarin." The initiative includes a *tie-up / tied up* with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin *is / as* a foreign language. They have already *singed / signed* an agreement to double the number of Chinese language assistants in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin *on / in* the top five most important languages for British children to study to improve their job *prospects / prospectus*.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Br\_t\_\_n's Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r D\_v\_d C\_m\_r\_n \_s  
\_mpl\_m\_nt\_ng \_b\_g ch\_ng \_n th\_ l\_ng \_\_g\_s t\_\_ght  
\_n \_K sch\_\_ls. \_n \_v\_s\_t\_t\_ Ch\_n\_, h\_t\_ld j\_\_rn\_l\_sts  
th\_t Br\_t\_sh sch\_\_ls sh\_\_ld t\_\_ch M\_nd\_r\_n \_nst\_\_d \_f  
Fr\_nch \_nd G\_rm\_n. H\_t\_ld h\_s h\_sts th\_t h\_ pl\_ns t\_  
d\_\_bl\_ th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f st\_d\_nts st\_dy\_ng Ch\_n\_s\_\_ \_n  
Br\_t\_sh sch\_\_ls t\_ 400,000 \_n th\_ n\_xt thr\_\_y\_\_rs. H\_  
w\_ll \_\_ls\_ pr\_v\_d\_ s\_bs\_d\_\_s t\_ sch\_\_ls th\_t st\_rt  
t\_\_ch\_ng M\_nd\_r\_n. H\_ b\_l\_\_v\_s str\_ng\_r\_d\_c\_t\_\_n\_l  
t\_\_s w\_th Ch\_n\_\_r\_\_ \_n\_c\_ss\_ry \_l\_m\_nt \_n k\_\_p\_ng  
Br\_t\_\_n c\_m\_p\_t\_t\_v\_\_ \_n th\_ Ch\_n\_s\_ m\_rk\_t. H\_s\_\_d:  
" \_w\_nt Br\_t\_\_n l\_nk\_d \_p\_t\_ th\_ w\_rld's f\_st-gr\_w\_ng  
\_c\_n\_m\_\_s, \_nd th\_t \_ncl\_d\_s \_\_r y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_  
l\_\_rn\_ng th\_ l\_ng\_\_g\_s t\_ s\_\_l t\_m\_rr\_w's b\_s\_n\_ss  
d\_\_ls."

Mr C\_m\_r\_n \_xpl\_\_n\_d t\_ j\_\_rn\_l\_sts th\_ \_mp\_rt\_nc\_  
\_f \_ntr\_d\_c\_ng M\_nd\_r\_n \_n \_K sch\_\_ls. H\_s\_\_d: "By  
th\_t\_m\_ th\_ ch\_ldr\_n b\_rn t\_d\_y l\_\_v\_ sch\_\_l, Ch\_n\_  
\_s s\_t\_t\_b\_ th\_ w\_rld's l\_rg\_st \_c\_n\_my, s\_\_t's t\_m\_  
t\_ l\_\_k b\_y\_nd th\_ tr\_d\_t\_\_n\_l f\_c\_s \_n Fr\_nch \_nd  
G\_rm\_n \_nd g\_t\_m\_ny m\_r\_ ch\_ldr\_n l\_\_rn\_ng  
M\_nd\_r\_n." Th\_ \_n\_t\_\_t\_v\_\_ \_ncl\_d\_s \_t\_\_ -p w\_th th\_  
Br\_t\_sh C\_\_nc\_l \_nd th\_ Ch\_n\_s\_ \_ff\_c\_f\_r t\_\_ch\_ng  
M\_nd\_r\_n \_s \_f\_r\_\_gn l\_ng\_\_g\_. Th\_y h\_v\_\_l\_r\_\_dy  
s\_gn\_d \_n \_gr\_\_m\_nt t\_d\_\_bl\_ th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f Ch\_n\_s\_  
l\_ng\_\_g\_ \_\_ss\_st\_nts \_n \_K sch\_\_ls. Th\_ Br\_t\_sh  
C\_\_nc\_l p\_ts M\_nd\_r\_n \_n th\_ t\_p f\_v\_m\_st \_mp\_rt\_nt  
l\_ng\_\_g\_s f\_r Br\_t\_sh ch\_ldr\_n t\_ st\_dy t\_ \_mpr\_v\_  
th\_\_r j\_b pr\_sp\_cts.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

britain's prime minister david cameron is implementing a big change in the languages taught in uk schools on a visit to china he told journalists that british schools should teach mandarin instead of french and german he told his hosts that he plans to double the number of students studying chinese in british schools to 400000 in the next three years he will also provide subsidies to schools that start teaching mandarin he believes stronger educational ties with china are a necessary element in keeping britain competitive in the chinese market he 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 to journalists the importance of introducing mandarin in uk schools he said "by the time the children born today leave school china is set to be the world's largest economy so it's time to look beyond the traditional focus on french and german and get many more children learning mandarin" the initiative includes a tie-up with the british council and the chinese office for teaching mandarin as a foreign language they have already signed an agreement to double the number of chinese language assistants in uk schools the british council puts mandarin in the top five most important languages for british children to study to improve their job prospects

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is implementing a big change in the language taught in UK schools. On a visit to China, he told journalists that British schools should teach Mandarin instead of French and German. He told his hosts that he plans to double the number of students studying Chinese in British schools to 400,000 in the next three years. He will also provide subsidies to schools that start teaching Mandarin. He believes stronger educational ties with China are a necessary element in keeping Britain competitive in the Chinese market. He said: "I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies, and that includes our young people learning the language to seal tomorrow's business deals." Mr Cameron explained to journalists the importance of introducing Mandarin in UK schools. He said: "By the time the children born today leave school, China is set to be the world's largest economy, so it's time to look beyond the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin." The initiative includes a tie-up with the British Council and the Chinese office for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language. They have already signed an agreement to double the number of Chinese language assistants in UK schools. The British Council puts Mandarin in the top five most important languages for British children to study to improve their job prospects.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Mandarin. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MANDARIN:** Make a poster about the importance of Mandarin. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. FOREIGN LANGUAGE:** Write a magazine article about foreign languages. Include imaginary interviews with people who are good at learning them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a language expert. Ask him/her three questions about Mandarin. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c F    d F    e T    f F    g T    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. implementing | a. carrying out    |
| 2. provide      | b. offer           |
| 3. ties         | c. links           |
| 4. seal         | d. conclude        |
| 5. deals        | e. agreements      |
| 6. journalists  | f. reporters       |
| 7. beyond       | g. further on than |
| 8. focus        | h. emphasis        |
| 9. signed       | i. penned / inked  |
| 10. prospects   | j. chances         |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. China
2. 400,000
3. Subsidies
4. Competitive
5. Business deals
6. Journalists
7. The focus on French and German
8. To employ more Mandarin teachers
9. In the top five languages
10. They'll have better chances of finding a job

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b    2. d    3. a    4. c    5. b    6. c    7. d    8. a    9. a    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)