

I. READING

Ever since a Polish Jew invented Esperanto in 1887 in the hopes of fostering a cross-cultural community, cynics have mocked it as an idealistic cult for linguistic weirdos. Yet for such an ambitious and unlikely idea it has earned its share of notoriety. For instance, a billionaire benefactor George Soros owes his prosperity to the idea: he defected from Communist Hungary at the 1946 World Esperanto Congress in Switzerland. To hear a growing number of enthusiasts tell it, the language's most glorious days may actually lie ahead. Though numbers are hard to come by - and those available are hard to believe (the Universal Esperanto Society - UES - estimates 8 million speakers) - the language may be spreading in developing nations in Africa, Asia and South America. 'Because of the Internet, we have seen a vast improvement in the levels of competent speakers in places like China and Brazil,' says Humphrey Tonkin, the former president of the UEA.

The renewed enthusiasm for the language was on display in Gothenburg, Sweden, at the 88th annual World Esperanto Congress. Some 1,800 members of the Universal Esperanto Association - from places as varied as Japan, Israel, Nepal and Brazil - converged in what sounds like a mixture of overenunciated Italian and softly spoken Polish. Organizers say attendance outstripped last year's meeting by almost 20 percent. Meanwhile, the number of Esperanto home pages has jumped from 330 in 1998 to 788 in 2003. So what's the big appeal? Unlike that other global language, Esperanto puts everyone on a level playing field; native English speakers make up only 10 percent of the world population, but they expect everybody else to be as articulate as they are. 'Throughout Asia, for example, people are conscious of the language problem because they all speak different languages,' says John Wells, professor of phonetics at University College London. 'Some are questioning whether they have to use English as their language for wider communication or whether there is some other possible solution.' The majority of Esperanto speakers still live in Europe, where the language was invented by Ludovic Zamenhof, under the pseudonym Doktoro Esperanto (meaning 'one who hopes'). Back in his time, people were drawn to Esperanto because it is five times easier to learn than English and ten times simpler than Russian.

Nowadays, European Esperanto speakers tend to be older throwbacks of the cold-war era - though, as sources report, students in Poland and Hungary can still earn Ph.D.s in the language. Many believe the popularity of the language in the developing world is being fueled by growing resentment of English as the language of global commerce and political rhetoric. 'Bush and the Blair have become Esperanto's best friends,' jokes Probal Dasgupta, professor of linguistics at India's University of Hyderabad. 'Globalization has put a wind in our sails, making it possible for people to have interest in Esperanto as not only a language, but a social idea.' Similar hopes have been voiced from the moment Zamenhof first came up with his egalitarian lingo. But in today's rapidly shrinking world, the timing couldn't be better.

(Adapted from Newsweek, August 2003)

1. Esperanto

- A) wasn't known until the twentieth century.
 B) was invented by a group of weirdos.
 C) was made up to serve some aim.
 D) helped one man flee his country.

2. The text says the language

- A) has lost its popularity.
 B) is used by 8000 people.
 C) isn't likely to be spoken in Africa.
 D) has few fluent users in Asia.

3. What do we learn about the 88th Congress?

- A) The people present there practised a variety of languages.
 B) The participants were encouraged to set up new Esperanto websites.
 C) The number of its participants exceeded the number present the year before.
 D) It was held in a non-European country.

4. Which sentence(s) is/are true?

- A) Esperanto has some advantages over English.
 B) A quarter of population are native speakers of English.
 C) Asian people are aware of the language barrier.
 D) Esperanto is mostly used in Asian countries.

5. According to the text, Esperanto

- A) is less difficult than Russian.
 B) is widely used by Hungarian students.
 C) can be no longer found at universities.
 D) may have been used among politicians.

6. Which of these does the text mention?

- A) a name of a president
 B) a fictitious name, especially one used by an author
 C) a teaching method used at universities
 D) a surname of a Ph. D

II. COMMUNICATION AND VOCABULARY

7. A: Sue was absent from school again!

B:

- A) I can't make it up.
 B) She may have played truant again.
 C) She 's come down with mumps.
 D) Poor thing. What's happened?

8. A: What does WHO stand for?

B:

- A) It stands still.
 B) I don't have a clue.
 C) The word 'who' is a pronoun.
 D) Some organisation, I suppose.

9. A: I wish to make a formal complaint.

B:

- A) Must you? B) I am sorry to hear that.
 C) What's the point? D) I am sorry to bother you.

10. A: Did Jane pass the exams?

B:

- A) Yes, she was successful.
- B) Yes, with flying colours!
- C) Yes, she failed them.
- D) No, she lost them.

11. A: Could I speak to Mr Wright?

B:

- A) Yes, I'll put you through.
- B) Certainly!
- C) I'm afraid he's not available now.
- D) Sure, I'll let him know.

12. Mark has a/an (1) nose and (2) hair.

- A) (1) hooked; (2) thick
- B) (1) upturned; (2) spiky
- C) (1) freckled; (2) thin
- D) (1) hollow; (2) pale

13. Lucy is a/an follower of the latest fashion trends.

- A) passion
- B) passionate
- C) unpassionate
- D) compassionate

14. is a shelf above the opening of a fireplace.

- A) Headboard
- B) Wall cabinet
- C) Built-in shelf
- D) Mantelpiece

15. He was caught cheating in an exam and was school.

- A) admitted to
- B) expelled from
- C) thrown out of
- D) dropped out of

16. Which of these work-related phrases sound positive?

- A) tough deadlines
- B) poor working conditions
- C) job burnout
- D) be underpaid

III. GRAMMAR

17. Which of the sentences are grammatically correct?

- A) He's always borrowing my pencil!
- B) He could have borrowed my pencil.
- C) He'd never borrow my pencil.
- D) He was to borrow my pencil.

18. crying over spilt milk.

- A) There's no point
- B) There's no point in
- C) It's no use
- D) No use

19. 'Być może wyszedł' can be translated:

- A) He needed to go out.
- B) He needn't have gone out.
- C) He was bound to go out.
- D) He might have gone out.

20. I suggest that you it immediately.

- A) see to
- B) should see to
- C) could see to
- D) are seeing to

21. India is (1) country in (2) Asia, in (3) Indian Ocean.

- A) (1) the; (2) -; (3) the
- B) (1) a; (2) the; (3) the
- C) (1) a; (2) -; (3) the
- D) (1) the; (2) the; (3) -

22. Which plural forms are correct?

- A) geese
- B) leaves
- C) beliefs
- D) furnitures

23. I would... relax on the beach now.

- A) rather to
- B) rather
- C) prefer to
- D) prefer

24. Everyone enjoyed the party,

- A) did they?
- B) did we?
- C) didn't he?
- D) didn't they?

25. of the players scored the goal.

- A) All
- B) Neither
- C) Every
- D) None

26. Little about that scandal at that time.

- A) I knew
- B) did I know
- C) have I known
- D) I used to know

IV. ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD

27. Which of the sentence(s) is/are true about the USA?

- A) It is the largest country in size.
- B) It is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean.
- C) The lowest point there is in Death Valley.
- D) Alabama and Georgia are in the south.

28. Queen Victoria



- A) was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
- B) lived in the XXth century.
- C) was the longest reigning English monarch.
- D) never married.

29. The Maori are indigenous people of

- A) Australia.
- B) America.
- C) Canada.
- D) New Zealand.

30. Match the columns:

1. Haggis	A. a national symbol
2. Uluru	B. a type of food
3. Thistle	C. a nickname for a country
4. Great White North	D. a name of a rock formation

- A) 1 - B; 2 - A; 3 - D; 4 - C
- B) 1 - B; 2 - D; 3 - A; 4 - C
- C) 1 - D; 2 - A; 3 - C; 4 - B
- D) 1 - C; 2 - B; 3 - A; 4 - D