



English mania

Lesson code: JS2D-MZUB-ARVE-V

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

1 Warm-up

Study the definition below. Do you think the word is approving or disapproving?

mania (*noun*): a very strong interest in something which uses up all your time and energy; a powerful obsession

How do 'maniacs' behave? Match the descriptions and terms on the left to the manias on the right:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. hysterical teenagers | a. Beatle mania |
| 2. deafening crowds, chanting, cheering, booing | b. exercise mania |
| 3. rapture, weeping, visions | c. political mania |
| 4. compulsive over-exercising | d. religious mania |
| 5. screaming slogans, waving flags | e. sports mania |

2 Watching and listening

Jay Walker, an entrepreneur and inventor, is going to give a talk on the world's 'English mania'. Watch the introduction to his talk. Which of the manias in Exercise 1 does he mention or refer to?

Guess the correct answer for each question below. Watch the rest of the talk and check your answers.

- How many people are trying to learn English worldwide?
a. 500 million b. 1 billion c. 2 billion
- Which country will become the largest English-speaking country in the world?
a. the USA b. China c. India
- In which school year do Chinese school children start learning English by law?
a. third grade (8-9 yrs) b. fifth grade (10-11) c. sixth grade (11-12)
- How long does China's 'Gaokao' school-leaving examination last?
a. 3 hours b. 12 hours c. 3 days
- How many Chinese high school students have taken the Gaokao?
a. 10 million b. 40 million c. 80 million



3 Checking understanding

Put 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to the statements below:

1. The speaker thinks that English mania is an unhealthy obsession.
2. According to the speaker, learning English represents opportunity for a better life.
3. The speaker believes that English will replace all other languages in the future.
4. The speaker believes that knowing English will enable people to become involved in global discussions.
5. The speaker believes that learning English is popular because of America.

4 Vocabulary development

Study the words below using a dictionary, then complete the sentences from Jay's talk. Check your answers by watching the video again or reading the transcript.

alarming gruelling harnessing tsunami unimaginable

1. Manias can be good. Manias can be _____. Or manias can be deadly.
2. 80 million high school Chinese students have already taken this _____ test.
3. The intensity to learn English is almost _____.
4. Is English a _____, washing away other languages?
5. Like the _____ of electricity in our cities or the fall of the Berlin Wall, English represents hope for a better future.

5 The UK/US education system

Study the table below.

| Age range | British English | American English |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2-5 | nursery school / kindergarten | preschool |
| 5-11 | primary school | kindergarten (5-6) elementary school (5-11) |
| 11-18 | secondary school | junior high school (11-14) high school (14-18) |
| 18+ | university | college/university |

Describe the education system in your country using British or American English.



What else do you know about the British and American education systems? Complete the sentences below:

A levels
public

comprehensive
revise

majors
school

principal
sit

1. The term '_____ school' has opposite meanings in the UK and US. In the UK, it refers to a private independent school. In the US, it means a school that is funded by the state.
2. In the UK, a _____ school refers to a typical state secondary school.
3. In the UK, the school-leaving exams are known as _____ .
4. In the US, the person in charge of a high school is a _____. In the UK, it is a *headteacher* or *headmaster/headmistress*.
5. At an American university, a student studies or _____ in a subject.
6. When preparing for an exam, students in the UK _____ what they have studied. In the US, they *review* for an exam.
7. In the UK and US, students *take* exams. However, in the UK they can also _____ exams.
8. In the US, Americans can use the expression 'go to _____' even if they are at university.

6 Talking point

Discuss any of the following questions:

1. What do you think of the English learning methods shown in the presentation?
2. How important is learning English in your country?
3. How would you describe the quality of your country's education system?
4. Has 'English mania' influenced your native language?

