

LEVEL 4 Assessment Answer Key

## UNIT 6

### Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The translation of the hugely popular novel faced intense \_\_\_\_\_ from critics who felt that many of the nuances of the original were lost.
- a. texture
  - b. horizon
  - c. scrutiny

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

2. The international conference aimed to explore cultural \_\_\_\_\_ and how to break them in order to promote mutual understanding.
- a. hospitality
  - b. stereotypes
  - c. horizons

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

3. To ensure fairness, the selection process for the scientific trial was completely \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. abstract
  - b. random
  - c. coherent

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ carefully at the two images, trying to spot the difference.
- a. peered
  - b. conceived
  - c. scrutinized

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

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5. He runs a total of 80 kilometers a week. That's roughly the \_\_\_\_\_ of two marathons.
- limitation
  - stereotype
  - equivalent

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

**Complete the sentences with the correct words.**

abstract	conceive	dread	paradigm	texture
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6. His use of colorful, idiomatic language gives his writing an interesting \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Younger children have great difficulty understanding \_\_\_\_\_ concepts, such as feelings or time.
8. There was a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ in the air as they waited for the doctor to return with the test results.
9. Your book has such an interesting plot. How did you \_\_\_\_\_ it?
10. They created a new \_\_\_\_\_ for how to successfully forecast the weather.

ANSWERS: 6. texture, 7. abstract, 8. dread, 9. conceive, 10. paradigm

POINTS: 5

**Choose the correct meaning for each word in bold.**

11. He **stared** at the street signs written in an unfamiliar script but could not work out where he was.
- a brief or partial look at something
  - a long or careful look at something

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

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12. The students **peered** at the city map, planning all the places they would visit on their exchange trip.
- a brief or partial look at something
  - a long or careful look at something

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

13. When she **glimpsed** at the photo, she noticed there was a cat sitting on a chair in the background.
- a brief or partial look at something
  - a long or careful look at something

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

**Complete the sentences with the correct words.**

beyond the	broaden your	on the
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14. Language-learning apps are improving so quickly. It's exciting to think about what lies \_\_\_\_\_ horizon!
15. This is not going to go well. I can see dark clouds \_\_\_\_\_ horizon.
16. Traveling is great, but reading is also a great way to \_\_\_\_\_ horizons.

ANSWERS: 14. beyond the, 15. on the, 16. broaden your

POINTS: 3

**Read the passage.**

**Is Joy the Same in Every Language? (by Jen Rose Smith)**

"The lexicon of a foreign language is like a map of a country you've never been to," says psychologist Tim Lomas, a lecturer at the University of East London.

**A** While travelers tend to think that seeing the world is central to understanding it, some language experts shift the paradigm: to them, it is actually words that shape our perspectives on the world. Studying words therefore offers a window into the human experience.

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- B** To these researchers, dictionaries are like maps. They help define the topography and textures of our world, and they can lead the way to discoveries. Next to traveling, learning new words—or an entire language—may be the most mind-expanding journey of all.
- C** As a word collector, Tim Lomas makes an excellent tour guide. He studies the words we use for our emotions, dreams, and desires—words that vary widely across the world’s 7,117 spoken languages. His research constitutes a global glossary of feelings.

**A world of emotions**

- D** Languages from Aleut to Zulu contain unique terms for our internal lives, and Lomas has gathered thousands of them into an interactive lexicography. The searchable index of words is sorted by language and theme, and drawn from every part of the globe.
- E** His collection, featuring categories such as “revelry” and “longing,” brims with treasures: Roll your tongue around the German word *zielschmerz*, for example, to imagine the thrilling dread of finally chasing a long-held dream. Or crank up your stereo and channel the Arabic *tarab*, a state of enchantment or ecstasy that only music can induce.
- F** Some such words are a journey in themselves. The Wolof term *teraanga* is a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and sharing that permeates life in Senegal, where travelers enjoy a warm welcome traditionally extended to guests.
- G** And Lomas’s own lexicon is inspired, in part, by travel. More than two decades ago, a teenaged Lomas spent six months roaming around China—a trip that introduced him to far-ranging cultures and belief systems. “China had such detailed theories about the mind, well-being, and emotional states,” he says. “I could definitely appreciate that lots of this fell outside my conceptual horizon.”
- H** “There are real limitations if we only view our emotional lives through the prism of English,” he says. It’s a belief that he brings to his psychological research. If you want to understand the human mind, Lomas suggests, you have to look beyond your own culture.

**Are there “Untranslatable” words?**

- I** You may recognize some of the words in Lomas’s collection from the lists of “untranslatable” words that have taken the internet by storm in recent years. They include terms such as *hygge*, the Scandi-inflected pleasure of cozy comfort, and *sisu*, a kind of stoic grit celebrated in Finland.
- J** Many language experts are skeptical of such lists. “Often, they hew suspiciously close to stereotypes about the culture in question,” writes David Shariatmadari in his myth-busting linguistics book *Don’t Believe a Word: The Surprising Truth About Language*.
- K** The very idea of words being “untranslatable” doesn’t stand up to much scrutiny, either, Shariatmadari explains. After all, such lists of words invariably go on to include perfectly good translations. Instead of “untranslatable,” it’s more accurate to say they lack a one-word, English-language equivalent.

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- L** Here's the real surprise: This is the case not just for ultra-specific words like *hygge* and *sisu*. When it comes to feelings, one-to-one exact translations are less common than you might think. Even terms such as happiness, sadness, and anger—which seem basic to English speakers—are not universal and don't exist in every language.
- M** Take “happy,” for instance. Flip through a Polish-English dictionary, and you'll find the term *szczęśliwy* offered as a direct translation. But the Polish word is actually different, said the late Polish poet Stanisław Barańczak, who translated emotion-rich works by authors including William Shakespeare and Emily Dickinson into his native language.
- N** While happiness can be casual, *szczęśliwy* is set aside for “rare states of profound bliss, or total satisfaction with serious things such as love, family, the meaning of life,” Barańczak wrote in the book *Emotion and Cause: Linguistic Theory and Computational Implementation*. The emotional contours of *szczęśliwy* are different from that of happiness. What first appears to be an easy translation is anything but.

**Choose the correct answers.**

17. How do some language experts feel about studying foreign languages as way to learn about people and cultures?
- It is almost as effective as traveling to different countries.
  - It is especially useful when visiting a country you have never been to.
  - It's central to understanding the topography of other countries.

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

18. What is the closest translation of the word “zielschmerz”?
- The dread one feels upon realizing they may never achieve their dreams.
  - The feeling of exhaustion one gets after finally achieving a long-held dream.
  - The excitement and fear one feels when going after something long desired.

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

19. Which word means a state of joy or happiness specifically felt when listening to music?
- tarab*
  - szczęśliwy*
  - hygge*

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

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20. What inspired Tim Lomas to start collecting words for emotions from around the world?
- He felt limited by the words for emotions in English.
  - He worked as a tour guide and learned many different languages.
  - He spent some time traveling in Asia in his youth.

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

21. In the first sentence of paragraph **N**, what is the phrase set aside closest in meaning to?
- suspended
  - ignored
  - saved

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

**Read the passage.****The Foreign Language Effect**

- A** It has long been accepted that learning a second language does for your brain what using weights does for your body—it keeps it healthier for longer. Research has shown that people who know more than one language can delay the onset of age-related diseases like dementia for up to 5 years. Recent studies, however, suggest that learning a second language might be responsible for an even more dramatic change in how the brain functions.
- B** First documented by Boaz Keysar and his colleagues at the University of Chicago in 2012, measurable changes were seen in the brains of subjects when they were performing tasks in a second language compared to performing the same tasks in their native language—changes which influenced rational decision-making and even risk-taking behavior. This became known as the Foreign Language Effect (FLE). In subsequent years, FLE has been proven again and again in a number of different studies.
- C** In Keysar’s original experiment, a group of native English speakers who were studying Spanish as a second language were split into two groups and given the same moral problem: would you kill one person to save five others? Most of the group who were given the problem in their native language said no, but the ones who were given the problem in their second language were more likely to consider both sides rationally. Keysar repeated the experiment a number of times and kept getting the same results—when thinking and speaking in their native language, people were too emotional to even consider killing a person to save five people. However, when thinking and speaking in their second language, they were more logical about their choice.
- D** Over the years, this problem has been posed again and again to people of different nationalities with different native languages and different second languages, with similar results: people are less likely to make

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decisions based on emotion if they make that decision in a second language. Our first language is like a massive emotional dog dragging us around the park in all sorts of random directions, whereas our second language is a small, well-behaved puppy that we are fully in control of.

- E** In 2013, Albert Costa, building on Keysar's experiments regarding FLE and financial choices, found that people were less susceptible to the framing effect in a second language. The framing effect occurs when people react differently depending on whether information is presented as positive or negative. For example, a person is more likely to bet money if you tell them they have a 50% chance of winning, and less likely if you tell them they have a 50% chance of losing, even though those odds are exactly the same. However, when you give them equivalent information in a second language, they are much less likely to be influenced by the positive or negative words used to frame the question. It's as if the second language acts like a net, sorting the facts from the sales pitch.
- F** And the range of behaviors affected by FLE doesn't stop there. Researchers in China in 2021 found that people tend to lie less in a second language than in their native language. In 2022, psychologists in Poland found that people were less egotistical in a second language than their native tongue. People who normally tend to think they are above average in decision making skills are much more willing to admit they might be wrong when operating in their second language. Keysar himself has continued his studies in this field and has found that people have more accurate memories in a second language.
- G** So what causes FLE? One theory has to do with cognitive load, or the increased amount of brain power needed to speak in a second language. It takes you longer to think, so you have more time to consider decisions rather than react emotionally. This might also explain why people are more honest when using their second language: it is simply more difficult to make up information when speaking in a different language. Another theory is that people often learn their second language in classrooms from books. This is a less emotional environment.
- H** One of the most convincing theories relates to the area of the brain that is used for languages. When we turn thoughts into speech in our native tongue, we use a part of the brain known as Broca's area in the lower portion of the left frontal lobe. We also use Wernicke's area, which is usually behind the ear on the opposite side of the dominant writing hand, to make sense of words that we hear. However, when people switch to their second language, a third area of the brain also lights up under an MRI scan: the CEO of the brain, the prefrontal cortex. The prefrontal cortex, which is located directly behind your forehead, just so happens to be the area responsible for rational decision-making and repressing reactions based on instinct.

**Choose the correct answers.**

22. What is the main idea of this passage?
- Using a second language changes the way you behave.
  - Learning a second language improves your memory.
  - Speaking a second language prevents age-related brain disease.

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

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23. According to the passage, researchers from China found that people tend to be more \_\_\_\_\_ when using a second language.
- a. egotistical
  - b. truthful
  - c. emotional

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

24. According to the passage, speaking a second language \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. switches off the part of the brain that is able to make up information
  - b. uses a part of the brain that is less analytical
  - c. uses a part of the brain that is less emotional

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

25. What part of the brain controls the ability to understand the meaning of words when we are listening?
- a. Broca's area
  - b. Wernicke's area
  - c. the prefrontal cortex

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

26. According to the passage, where do you usually find Wernicke's area in a person who writes with their left hand?
- a. in the left frontal lobe
  - b. directly behind the forehead
  - c. near the right ear

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

**Read the quotes from the passage. Choose *Simile*, *Metaphor*, or *Analogy*.**

27. "...learning a second language does for your brain what using weights does for your body—it keeps it healthier for longer."
- a. Simile
  - b. Metaphor
  - c. Analogy



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ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

28. "... the CEO of the brain, the prefrontal cortex."

- a. Simile
- b. Metaphor
- c. Analogy

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

**Complete the second sentence using the type of verbal phrase as given in parentheses.**

29. Sarah turned on her computer. She stared at the screen in dread at the thought of having to write a 3,000-word-essay.

\_\_\_\_\_ (participle) her computer, Sarah stared at the screen in dread at the thought of having to write a 3000-word essay.

ANSWER: Turning on

POINTS: 1

30. Mark wanted to make a good impression on his host family. He learned how to give some simple compliments in their language.

\_\_\_\_\_ (infinitive) a good impression on his host family, Mark learned how to give some simple compliments in their language.

ANSWER: To make

POINTS: 1

31. This team relies too much on their star performer. They perform very poorly when she is absent from a game.

This team relies too much on their star performer, \_\_\_\_\_ (participle) very poorly when she is absent from a game.

ANSWER: performing

POINTS: 1

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32. This movie was filmed in three countries. It traces the life of the protagonist as he struggled to make a success of his life.

\_\_\_\_\_ (participle) in three countries, the movie traces the life of the protagonist as he struggled to make a success of his life.

ANSWER: Filmed

POINTS: 1

33. Jack handed in his letter of resignation. He felt both anxious and excited about the future.

\_\_\_\_\_ (gerund) in his letter of resignation, Jack felt both anxious and excited about the future.

ANSWER: Handing

POINTS: 1

**Combine the sentences by using a verbal phrase.**

34. Jenna failed the written part of the driving test. It taught her that she needed to spend more time studying the rules of the road.

\_\_\_\_\_ taught Jenna that she needed to spend more time studying the rules of the road.

ANSWER: Failing the written part of the driving test

POINTS: 1

**Identify the features in the introduction and conclusion of an essay. Write the correct letter (A–E) next to each feature in the paragraphs.**

35. 

<b>A</b> summary of the main supporting points
<b>B</b> final thought
<b>C</b> interesting anecdote
<b>D</b> thesis statement
<b>E</b> restatement of thesis

Essay Topic: *Discuss two ways in which learning a second language can benefit a person.*

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**Title: The Benefits of Learning a Second Language****Introduction**

I will never forget how my mother and my grandfather used to converse animatedly at our kitchen table, switching seamlessly between two distinct languages—English and Spanish. \_\_\_\_\_ I would watch with envy because having two languages at their disposal gave them access to two different worlds. Learning a new language has many well-documented benefits, but in this essay, I will focus on two: improved cognitive skills and improved emotional intelligence. \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion**

The advantages of acquiring a second language extend far beyond the mere ability to communicate in diverse settings. \_\_\_\_\_ Learning a second language can enhance cognitive abilities and foster a greater degree of empathy. \_\_\_\_\_ Languages are beautiful and richly textured—from the melodic tones of Spanish, to the precise grammar of German, and the intricate characters of Chinese. The benefits of learning these fascinating systems await anyone with an open enough mind. \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: C, D, E, A, B

POINTS: 5

**Read the first draft of an opinion essay. Put the sentences into the correct positions in the essay. Write A–E.**

36. A Unlike technology-based learning platforms, a human teacher can provide encouragement, constructive feedback, and create a supportive learning environment.
- B Finally, language is deeply connected with culture, history, and social context.
- C In today's digital age, technology has completely changed various aspects of our lives, including education.
- D Most importantly, they offer the human touch—perhaps the most vital component when learning to communicate with others in a new language.
- E A second advantage is that teachers are better at encouraging and facilitating communication.

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Question: *With improvements in technology, is it still necessary to have an actual teacher in the language classroom?*

**Introduction**

\_\_\_\_\_ Online language platforms, apps, and AI-powered language tutors have emerged, making language learning more accessible than ever before. However, while these advances have their merits, I think it is still necessary to have actual teachers in the English classroom. In this essay, I will explore why technology cannot fully replace the guidance and support provided by a skilled teacher.

**Body 1**

One of the most significant advantages of having an actual teacher in language learning is the one-to-one guidance and motivation they offer. A skilled language instructor can adapt their teaching methods to suit individual learning styles, identify strengths and weaknesses, and adjust lessons accordingly. \_\_\_\_\_

**Body 2**

\_\_\_\_\_ In a traditional classroom setting, learners engage in live conversations, debates, and discussions, which are essential for developing speaking and listening skills in another language. Technology simply cannot generate the type of dynamic communication that a good teacher can.

**Body 3**

\_\_\_\_\_ A human teacher who has grown up speaking the language can provide valuable insights into the cultural distinctions and appropriate usage of that language, helping learners develop cultural sensitivity and emotional intelligence. This gives students a deeper appreciation for the language and its use in different contexts.

**Conclusion**

While advances in technology have transformed language learning, we are a long way from technology entirely replacing people in education. Human instructors offer what technology cannot: personalized

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guidance, motivation, and the ability to facilitate real-time communication. \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: C, A, E, B, D

POINTS: 5

**You are going to write an opinion essay on the following topic.**

37. **Write about one of these two topics.**

**Topic 1:** What do you think is the best way to teach languages in schools?

**Topic 2:** What do you think is the most difficult aspect of learning a foreign language?

**A. OUTLINE Plan an outline for your essay.**

Write some notes on your opinion.

Think of three reasons to support your opinion.

Write some final thoughts for your conclusion.

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**B. Think of some words and phrases you can use in your essay. Write them in the box.**

The words and phrases below can be useful when writing about learning a foreign language.

- *According to most people,*
- *From my perspective,*
- *In my experience,*
- *It is generally accepted that*
- *Many people suggest/claim*
- *Personally, I believe*

**C. Write your essay based on your outline. Use the model to help you. Remember to use the vocabulary you wrote down.****Model:**

*Learning a new language is exciting, but it is also tough. From my perspective, achieving natural pronunciation is one of the biggest hurdles. Sounding natural in a second language means we need to “unlearn” some of the sounds of our first language, not worry about feeling embarrassed when using new sounds, and—depending on the language we are learning—open our minds to aspects of tone or stress that don’t even exist in our first language.*

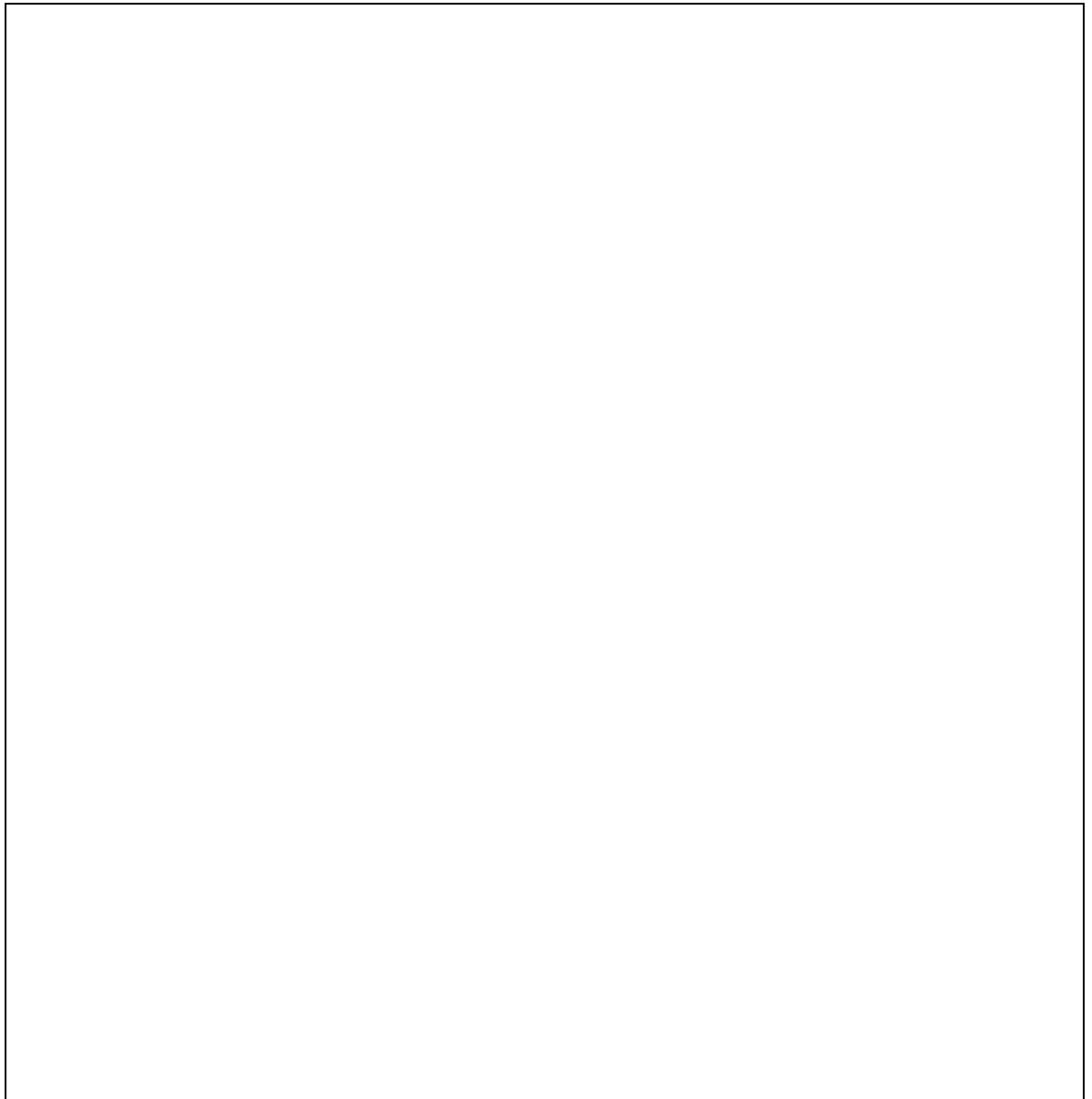
*To speak a new language naturally, many experts suggest that you need to “retrain” your tongue. This is because we often use sounds from our first language when we try to speak the new one. To avoid this, we cannot just speak naturally: we need to actively focus on what our lips, tongue, and mouth are doing. For example, English speakers might struggle with the “r” sound in French and end up saying it like the “r” in English. Fixing this requires a lot of focus and practice.*

*A second obstacle to speaking a new language naturally is overcoming the embarrassment that comes from making mistakes in front of others. This is especially true when it comes to pronunciation. People worry about sounding funny or not being understood, so they hold back. To overcome this, it is important to remember that making mistakes is how we learn. We should feel okay about sounding less than perfect at first.*

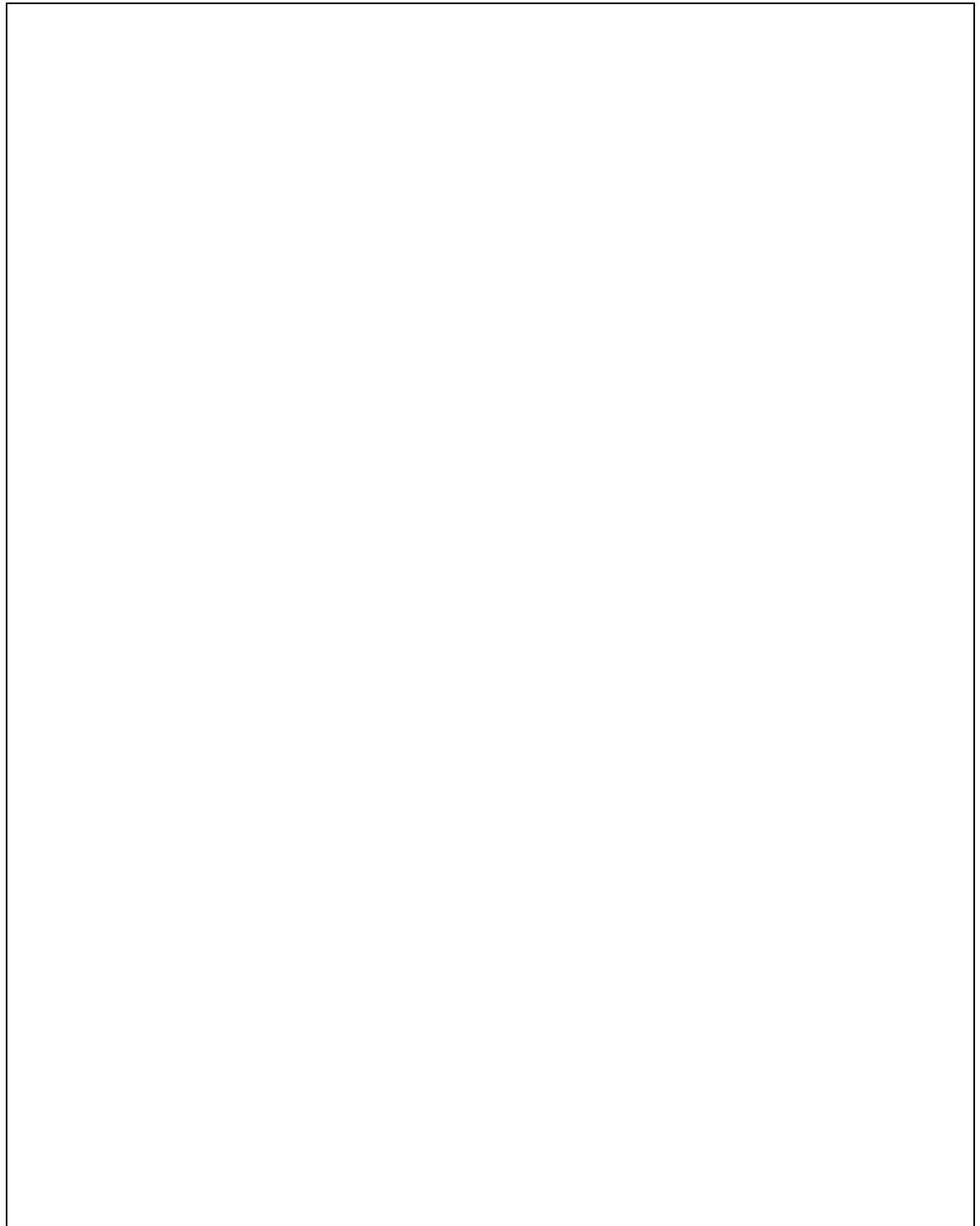
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*Finally, to speak a new language naturally, it is important to be open to concepts that are entirely new. For example, using a different tone for a word in Mandarin or Thai can drastically change the meaning of the word. This is a concept that is alien to many people who speak English as a first language. To overcome this, we need to be open-minded enough to recognize, accept, and internalize fundamental differences across languages.*

*Learning a new language is like a big adventure: it's exciting, but not always easy. Mastering its pronunciation is perhaps one of the hardest parts. Our first language can make us mess up sounds, and embarrassment might prevent us from speaking in a way that seems foreign to us. In addition, an open mind is necessary to accept linguistic concepts that are entirely new. However, as long as we are keen to learn and comfortable getting it wrong sometimes, then—with practice and patience—we will eventually get better.*



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ANSWER: Answers will vary. See Writing Rubric.

POINTS: 12