

Introduction

This support pack accompanies: UK Culture – Language

To watch the video online, go to: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/uk-culture/language>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-watching vocabulary activity;
- the tape script
- a comprehension task

Before you watch / read

Match the words and phrases in the table to their definitions.

1. predominant	2. native language	3. newcomers	4. on occasions
5. the early days	6. assistance	7. interpreting	8. local authority

Definitions:

- a. help
- b. people who have recently arrived in an area
- c. sometimes
- d. more important or larger
- e. group of people who govern an area
- f. changing what someone is saying into another language
- g. the first language you learn
- h. the first days

Now read **the transcript or watch the video to find out if you are right.**

Transcript: UK Culture – Language

The predominant spoken language is English, but in parts of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland their native language is still spoken.

What newcomers to the UK might find confusing are the numbers of different regional accents and dialects which can on occasions be difficult to understand, even for native English speakers!

It is possible in the early days of your stay in the UK, that you'll need some assistance in interpreting or translating English into your preferred language. Interpretation services are often available locally and details of where and how to access them are normally available from your local authority or Citizens Advice Bureau.

Comprehension Task

Fill in the gaps in the text with the words from the box.

communication

regions

variety

first language

available

abroad

translator

council

Most people in the UK speak English, but outside England some still use a different _____¹. There is still a wide _____² of accents and dialects spoken in different _____³ of the country, and because of this people from the UK often have _____⁴ problems, not to mention visitors from _____⁵. Initially it may be necessary to use an interpreter or _____⁶. These are _____⁷ in most areas of the country and you should contact the local _____⁸ offices for this service.

Answers

Before you watch / read: 1 - d, 2 - g, 3 - b, 4 - c, 5 - h, 6 - a, 7 - f, 8 - e
Comprehension Task: 1 - first language, 2 - variety, 3 - regions, 4 - communication, 5 - abroad, 6 - translator, 7 - available, 8 - council