

C2.III Unit 11

Exercise 1. Complete the gaps in the text with one word only. The first one has been done as an example.

In countries (0) where two or more languages are spoken, language is frequently a political and highly emotive issue. (1) _____. Canada is officially bilingual, the mainly French-speaking province of Quebec introduced a law in 1976 which, (2) _____ other measures, banned languages (3) - _____ than French on commercial signs and restricted admissions (4) _____ English-speaking schools. In 1988 the supreme court of Canada ruled that some sections of this law were illegal. No (5) _____ had they done so (6) _____ thousands of French speakers took to the streets (7) _____ protest. Under the regime of General Franco, the Basque language, spoken (8) - _____ about 600,000 people in Spain, was forbidden. So strict (9) _____ this ban that people using Basque in public could be imprisoned.

Linguistic suppression still goes on but, (10) _____ the whole, governments nowadays are more tolerant of their minority languages. (11) _____ has this reversal of attitudes been more pronounced than in Wales. Until well into the twentieth century, Welsh was all (12) _____ illegal, its use being forbidden in schools, the courts and at many places of work. Only (13) _____ a long campaign of protest and vandalism by Welsh speakers in the 1960s (14) _____ the British government allow Welsh to become an official language. (15) _____ twelve per cent of the population of Wales speak Welsh as a first language but the country is now officially bilingual, all public signs are in Welsh as (16) _____ as English, and Welsh is the language of instruction in schools in predominantly Welsh-speaking areas.

Exercise 2. Highlight the figures of speech used in the examples below. Identify them.

1. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state, sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."

Martin Luther King Jr.'s address at the March on Washington in 1963

2. Suddenly the room filled with a deafening silence.
3. She's between jobs.
4. Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced. (James Baldwin)
5. "Life is a preparation for the future; and the best preparation for the future is to live as if there were none"

Albert Einstein

6. I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –
The Stillness in the Room
Was like the Stillness in the Air –
Between the Heaves of Storm –
The Eyes around – had wrung them dry –
And Breaths were gathering firm
For that last Onset – when the King
Be witnessed – in the Room –

I heard a Fly buzz–when I died (Emily Dickinson)

Exercise 3. Reading

- 1. Skim-read these two texts. In terms of subject matter, what do they have in common?**

Text 1

A friend of mine once told me of his first halting efforts to speak Japanese. He was working in an American company in Tokyo where all communication in the workplace was conducted in English, so he had no pressing need to learn the language. His wife, however, was taking Japanese lessons and passed on what she had learnt to him. The first few times he aired his Japanese in public, his efforts were met with politeness but he nevertheless got the impression he was doing something wrong. Quite some time went by before one of his Japanese colleagues plucked up the courage to tell him he spoke Japanese 'like a woman' and explained that often different vocabulary is used for the same objects depending on whether a man or a woman is speaking.

Japanese is not the only language which makes such distinctions, and although the vocabulary doesn't change, research shows that gender can affect speech patterns in English too. Typically women use a higher frequency of softening devices - such as "I would think", "sort of" or "a bit/rather - than men do. This gives the impression of being unassertive, but is in fact intended as a politeness strategy. They also tend to frame requests or suggestions as questions, which can frequently lead to misunderstandings with men, who favour a more direct approach. Thus, when a woman asks her husband "Would you like to go out to eat tonight?" she is attempting to open up a discussion of the pros and cons of the idea. Frequently, however, she will be met by a disappointingly blunt answer like "No. I'm tired" as the man assumes she merely wanted to know his opinion.

Text 2

Women are widely believed to be much more talkative than men, but some recent research has challenged this notion. In an experiment designed to measure the amount of speech produced, three pictures by the artist Albrecht Durer were presented to men and women separately. The subjects were told to take as much time as they wanted to describe the pictures. The average time for men was 13.0 minutes, and for women 3.17 minutes. The reasons for this disparity could lie in the fact that, at least historically speaking, men have had a more prominent role in society and in the business world and so it has been most common, and acceptable, for them to dominate dinner-table conversations or give long wordy speeches. Alternatively, it could be that women are loquacious within the context of an intimate conversation with friends, but not when required to hold forth alone on a topic.

What is not disputed, however, is the fact that male verbosity dries up when it comes to expressing emotions. The reasons for this lie more with socialization than genes, as male babies tend to be more emotionally expressive than female ones. Several studies of gender role development show that both mothers and fathers discourage their sons from expressing emotions such as sadness and fear, while encouraging their daughters to express vulnerability and affection. Peer groups complete this socialization process: young girls typically play with one or two others in activities that foster the skills of empathy, self-awareness and expression of feelings. Boys, on the other hand, play structured games in larger groups in which stoicism, toughness and competition are learned.

2. What are the 'distinctions' referred to in Text 1, line 11?
3. Explain in your own words why the writer has used the phrase 'a disappointingly blunt answer' in line 20 of Text 1?
4. Which phrase in paragraph 2 of Text 2 echoes the statistics given in the first paragraph of the same text about talking time?
5. What is the writer's opinion of the relative importance of heredity and environment where language development is concerned?

Exercise 4

Fill in the correct connectives and linking words from the list.

although - as well as - both - despite - due to - during - even though - however
 in addition - in order to - neither ... nor - so that - therefore - whereas - which -
 while

1. _____ we were driving through the Lake District, we saw many picturesque villages.
2. _____ having lost only one match this season, we didn't win the championship.
3. Flight attendants who apply for a job must be able to speak _____ English and Spanish.
4. I started learning Chinese _____ my stay in the Far East.
5. This is Jimmy's new bike, _____ he got from his parents. He locks it up every evening _____ nobody can steal it.
6. She gets up early _____ be in time for work.
7. The climate in South Africa is perfect. It's _____ too hot _____ too cold.
8. This cell phone tariff costs 8 cents per minute, _____ the other one offers a flat rate.
9. _____ my father likes country music, he rarely listens to it on the radio.

10. _____ to the six air bags, the car also has a built-in security system.
11. The company manufactures cars _____ motorcycles.
12. _____ we hadn't eaten for over twelve hours, we weren't very hungry.
13. My sister invited me to her party. _____, I was so busy I had to tell her I couldn't come.
14. I arrived late for the performance _____ a traffic jam on the motorway.
15. He spent most of his time playing with his friends. _____, he wasn't well prepared for the exam.

Exercise 5

Fill in the correct connectives and linking words from the list below.

AS WELL AS	DURING	BECAUSE	EITHER ... OR
NEITHER ... NOR	WHEN	ALTHOUGH	UNLESS
WHICH	SO THAT	THEN	SO
DESPITE	WHILE	SUCH AS	HOWEVER

1. _____ dad comes home from work he has to lie down on the sofa _____ he is tired.
2. Jerry had a bad headache yesterday, _____ he couldn't come to football practice.
3. This is Jimmy's new mountain bike, _____ he got from his parents. He locks it up every evening _____ nobody can steal it.
4. _____ Samantha was tired, she watched TV until well after midnight.
5. First, cut out the pictures, _____ paste them into your book.
6. I would like to learn Chinese. _____, I don't know anyone who can teach me.
7. _____ we were driving through the countryside, we saw many picturesque villages.
8. The Hemingways are our neighbours _____ our friends.
9. You can have _____ tea _____ coffee for breakfast. What would you like?
10. _____ being a great skier, only few people outside of Europe know him.
11. _____ the hike up the mountains we saw a lot of deer.
12. _____ you finish the essay by tomorrow you won't be able to get a good mark.

13. _____ my father _____ my mother will be able to attend the meeting tomorrow.

14. He likes all kinds of sports, _____ skiing, hockey and volleyball.