

A Global Language

1 Pre-reading

a. Underline one of the alternatives to complete each sentence.

- English (*is* • *is not*) a global language.
- English has a similar origin to that of (*Italian* • *German* • *French*).
- The total number of people who speak English in the world is more than (*1 million* • *20 million* • *2 billion*).
- (*English* • *French* • *German* • *Italian*) is probably the most important language in international business and on the Internet.

b. Match the expressions in A with their definitions in B.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Native language <input type="checkbox"/> Official language <input type="checkbox"/> Second language <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign language | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the language used legally at schools and institutions that is not generally native to a country. a language, different from your native language, that you learn at school in your country. the language which you first learned to speak. a language that you speak in addition to the language that you learned as a child. |
|---|--|



Glossary

- 1 at least** almeno **2 billion** miliardi
3 will ... outnumber presto supererà in numero **4 advertising** pubblicità **5 two-thirds** due terzi **6 scientists** scienziati
7 mail posta

2 Reading

Read and check your answers to Activity 1a.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English is a Germanic language of the Indo-European family. According to research by the British Council, English is an official language, or has special status, in at least¹ seventy-five countries, such as India, with a total population of over two billion². English is spoken as a native language by about 375 million people, and it is spoken as a second language by about

another 375 million speakers in the world. Speakers of English as a second language will soon outnumber³ those who speak it as a native language. Around 750 million people are believed to speak English as a foreign language.

English is the main language of books, newspapers, airports and air-traffic control, international business and academic conferences, science, technology, diplomacy, sport, international

competitions, pop music and advertising⁴. Over two-thirds⁵ of the world's scientists⁶ read in English. Three-quarters of the world's mail⁷ is written in English. And, if you want to find lots of information on the Internet, learn English! You'll need it because eighty per cent of the world's electronically-stored information is in English. Moreover, most Internet users communicate in English.



3 Reading comprehension

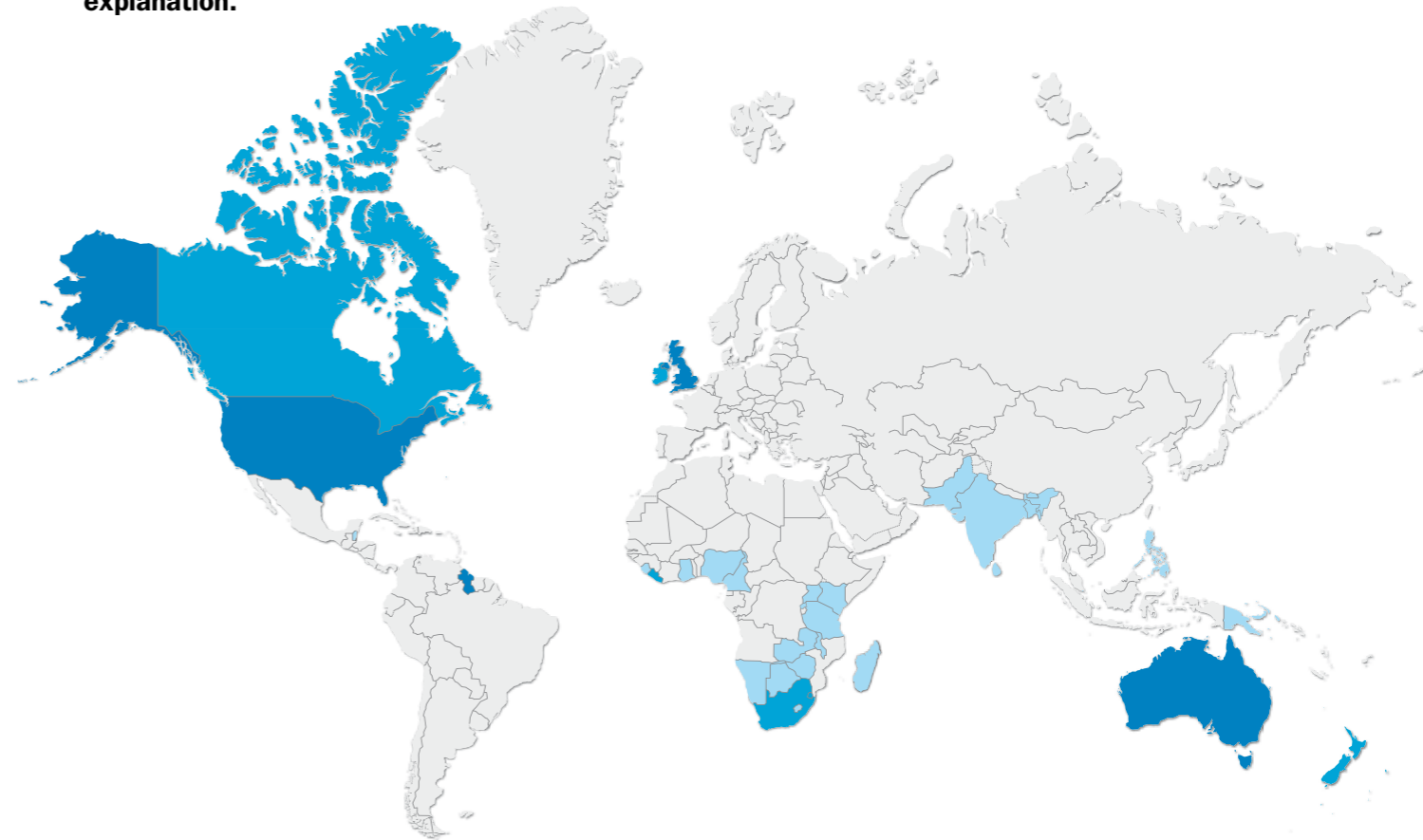
Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

375 • foreign • twenty • science • large • Indo-European • fewer • official

- English is part of the family of languages.
- In about seventy-five countries, English is the language, but not the native language of the population.
- About million people are native speakers of English and the same number of people speak English as a second language.
- In the future, there will probably be native speakers of English than second-language speakers of English in the world.
- In Italy, English is a language.
- In international competitions, pop music and , English is the main language used.
- Only per cent of information on computers is not in English.
- A very number of people use English to communicate.

4 Map reading

The map below shows some of the countries where people speak English. Look at it to understand how the colours are used. Then, in the "Key to the map", try to match each colour to the appropriate explanation.



Key to the map

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> [Dark Blue] | a. countries where English is not the native, but only the official language |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> [Medium Blue] | b. countries where English is the native language |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> [Light Blue] | c. countries where besides English as a native language, there is at least one other significant native language |