

## Grade 8- Worksheet 2020-

### I. Reading Comprehension.

*On the anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Bridget Lewis talks about the future of the English language.*

Two thousand years ago English did not exist. A thousand years ago it was a language used by less than two million people. Now it is the most influential language in the world, spoken by more than a billion people on the planet, as their first, second or third language. English currently dominates science, business, the mass media and popular culture. For example, 80% of emails on the Internet are in English. But where will English be at the end of the third millennium?

One view is that English is going to become even more important as a global lingua franca, dominating the world's trade and media while most other languages will become localized or just die out. At present, over half the world's 6,500 languages are in danger of extinction. Another view is that English is already breaking up, as Latin did, into several separate languages. There are already dictionaries of the "New Englishes", such as Australian English, full of words that a British English speaker would not recognize.

Hopefully, neither of these things will happen. Although different varieties of English will continue to develop around the world, standard English will survive for international communication. In addition, the frightening vision of a culturally uniform world totally dominated by one language is impossible. Already, other languages are fighting back against the iron grip of English on the Net. Governments around the world are also starting to protect smaller languages and recognize the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity. English will probably stay in control for a long time, at least while the USA remains the top superpower, but it definitely won't become the only language in the world.

#### A. Answer these questions in complete sentences

1. How many people spoke English in 1000 AD?
2. How many people speak English now?
3. Is English language the same in every English speaking country? Justify.
4. What is the message of the writer in this text?
5. How important is it to learn English according to you?( 6 pts)

#### B. Match each of the underlined words in the text with its appropriate synonym.

1. Control, hold
2. Leads, rules
3. Variety, range
4. Powerful, significant
5. Disappearance, elimination
6. Scary, terrifying

#### C. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense.

1. Some parents (**not / realize**) why their children (**try**) to leave school before they (**finish**) high school.
2. Right now, Tony (**write**) in his notebook, but John (**seem**) bored, for he (**do**) nothing.
3. After some time, they (**find**) a cave where they could rest for a while until the storm (**stop**).
4. As the waves (**grow**) bigger and bigger, all of the tourists (**run**) away and screaming.

