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# SEMINAR 1 – Answer Key

# Language

## Task 2 (in millions)

1. CHINESE (MANDARIN) — 885

2. SPANISH — 332

3. ENGLISH — 322

4. Bengali – 189

5. Hindi – 182

6. Portuguese – 170

7. Russian - 170

8. Japanese - 125

9. German (standard) - 98

10. Chinese (Wu) - 77

73. Czech - 12

## Task 3

a) (They planted the tree.) Creole – a language based on two or more languages (Spanish, French, English) that serves as the native language of its speakers, especially in the Caribbean, southern US, South America.

- b) Bad English (Correct I can't even tell you how bad a mood I'm in.)
- c) Correct
- d) Bad English (It said in the newspaper that the cinema was closed.)
- e) correct
- f) (One man comes; six men come.) pidgin simplified speech used for communication between people with different languages; Pidgin English – an English based on pidgin, especially in parts of the Orient.

### Task 5

APPARENT

- not clear or certain (For now, he is the apparent winner of the

contest.)

- obvious (The solution to the problem was apparent to all.)

CONSULT

- ask for advice

- give advice

DUST

- remove fine particles, remove dust (as in cleaning furniture)

- add fine particles, to apply dust (as in fingerprinting)

OVERLOOK - to pay attention to, to inspect, to be in charge of

- to ignore, to miss

QUITE

- rather, completely

- not completely (quite empty means totally empty, while quite full

means not completely full)

VITAL

- deadly (?) of very serious importance

## Task 6

DRIVE see THROW see CUT hit hit WRITE see SPLIT hit

How many inflections do the majority of verbs have? (4 - play, plays, played,

How many inflections does the verb BE have? (8 – am, are, be, been, being, is, was, were)

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### Task 7

According to any textbook, the present tense of the verb *drive* is *drive*. Every secondary school pupil knows that. Yet if we say, "I used to drive to work but now I don't", we are clearly using the present tense *drive* in the **past tense** sense. Equally if we say, "I will drive you to work tomorrow", we are using it in a **future** sense. And if we say, "I would drive if I could afford to", we are using it in a **conditional** sense. In fact, almost the only form of sentence in which we cannot use **the present tense** form for *drive* is, yes, the present sense. When we need to indicate an action going on right now, we must use the **participial** form *driving*. We don't say, "I drive the car now", but rather, "I'm driving the car now". Not to put too fine a point on it, the labels are largely meaningless.

## Task 8

Confusion, photograph, acceptance, expected, encourage, disgraceful, spelling, this, written, There, trouble, difficulties, everyone, easy, Europe.

### Task 9

Pronunciation in English is very inconsistent, but there are a few rules (not from the poem) that apply, such as:

tion = shun, kn - silent k (e.g. know), ps - silent p (e.g. psychology), ph = f (e.g. philosophy)

### Task 10

- 1. He speaks English well enough to get **by** in an English speaking country.
- 2. Have you ever been to the U.S.A?
- 3. Let's discuss this issue over lunch. (no preposition)
- 4. If you don't understand the word, look it **up** in the dictionary.
- 5. I'd like to introduce Mr Maiden to you.
- 6. We met at a conference two years ago.
- 7. She translates **from** Czech **into** English.
- 8. I need to take a course to brush **up** my German.
- 9. Excuse me, would you by any chance be Mr Atkinson?
- 10. I study Spanish and Portuguese at Masaryk University.