

Read the text about world languages and fill in the blanks with the correct words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.

English as a Global Language

decline - dominant - force - increasingly - involved -
migrant - move - native - ranks - rapidly - refugees -
responsible - spoken - study - top - use



The driving (1) _____ behind the spread of languages is the movement of people. More people than ever before are on the (2) _____ – migrant workers, (3) _____, asylum seekers, as well as business travellers, students, and tourists. That is one of the reasons why English has spread so quickly. However, much of the English that is spoken is not between (4) _____ speakers. A (5) _____ of international travel movements shows that three quarters of visits (6) _____ visitors travelling between non-native speaking countries. It demonstrates the growing (7) _____ of English as a global language.

English is also partly (8) _____ for killing off other languages. The number of languages has fallen (9) _____ over the last centuries. 500 years ago there were about 15,000 languages, today there are less than 7,000. But you cannot blame the (10) _____ of languages only on English. It began before English became a dominant language.

Today, the (11) _____ twelve languages are (12) _____ by 50% of the people. Next to English, Mandarin and Russian, as well as Spanish and Hindi, are becoming (13) _____ important. When you look at native and second languages, English (14) _____ second after Mandarin.

KEY

The driving **force** behind the spread of languages is the movement of people. More people than ever before are on the **move** – migrant workers, **refugees**, asylum seekers, as well as business travellers, students, and tourists. That is one of the reasons why English has spread so quickly. However, much of the English that is spoken is not between **native** speakers. A **study** of international travel movements shows that three quarters of visits **involved** visitors travelling between non-native speaking countries. It demonstrates the growing **use** of English as a global language.

English is also partly **responsible** for killing off other languages. The number of languages has fallen **rapidly** over the last centuries. 500 years ago there were about 15,000 languages, today there are less than 7,000. But you cannot blame the **decline** of languages only on English. It began before English became a dominant language.

Today, the **top** twelve languages are **spoken** by 50% of the people. Next to English, Mandarin and Russian, as well as Spanish and Hindi, are becoming **increasingly** important. When you look at native and second languages, English **ranks** second after Mandarin.