

English Today

Cambridge Advanced (CAE) Use of English Practice

This exercise gives you practice in the cloze exercises where you have to modify words to complete the text. Complete the gaps using the correct form of the word given in the box on the right.

The number of languages 1) **spoken** in the world has been falling in modern times, and the pace may be 2) **accelerating**. However, the spread of 3) **global** English is not directly causing smaller languages to become 4) **endangered**. The downward trend in language 5) **diversity** began before English started its 6) **rise** as an international lingua franca. In fact, English has a 7) **greater** impact on bigger national languages than smaller languages.

Though exact figures are 8) **unavailable**, estimates suggest that there are around 7,000 today. However, these are distributed 9) **unevenly**, the top 12 languages 10) **accounting** for half of the world's population.

While the 11) **majority** of the world's languages are spoken by small 12) **numbers** of speakers, most of the biggest languages, including Chinese, English and large European languages, are spoken as first languages by a 13) **declining** proportion of the world population.

- 1) Speak
- 2) Accelerate
- 3) Globe
- 4) Danger
- 5) Diverse
- 6) Rise
- 7) Great

- 8) Available
- 9) Even
- 10) Account

- 11) Major
- 12) Number

- 13) Decline