

It's all about communication

1 Listening: Do you speak English?

Watch the following clip from a British TV series and answer the following questions:

- Why is it impossible for the people to understand each other?
- Why do you think this topic was chosen?



YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fijBUeqiW0g>

2 Research: Translation tools

Communicating with each other often means that you have to use resources like dictionaries or you need help from translators to understand what another person wants to tell you.

- a) Do the internet search below and choose one of the translation tools you have found. Then do the following:
- Type in the English sentence: *The weather was nice.*
 - Then check the German translation. Is it correct?



Internet search: [translation tools](#)

- b) Now test how good the tool you have chosen is. Do the following:
- Type in the English sentence: *Polly's uncle had his car washed.*
 - Before you check the translation, make sure you know who washed the car in the sample sentence: *Was it Polly's uncle or someone else?*
 - Then check the German translation. Does it have the same meaning?
- c) In pairs, discuss the problem.

3 Proofing tools

Proofing tools are very useful helpers when it comes to the correct use of a language.

- a) Search the internet to find out what the proofing tools in the grid can be used for. Use can-do statements e.g.: *With a spell checker you can ...*

Tool	Functionality
Spell checker	
Grammar/Style checker	
Thesaurus	
Translation dictionary	
Hyphenator	
Contextual speller	

- b) Use the internet to find a least one monolingual and at least one bilingual (English/German – German/English) dictionary and do a sample search. Then answer the following questions.
- What do the dictionaries offer?
 - Can you find out more about the pronunciation of a word?
 - Can you find out how you would use this word correctly?
 - Are sample sentences given?
 - Is there any information about the origin of the word you have looked up?
- c) Present the dictionaries you have found on a poster and evaluated for your class. If you can, use a screenshot and add a short description.

Key

Tool	Functionality
Spell checker	Flags words in a document that may not be spelled correctly and may provide suggested replacements
Grammar/Style checker	Verifies written text for grammatical correctness and detects stylistic problems
Thesaurus	Lists synonyms and antonyms of words (if any are available)
Translation dictionary	Allows you to translate single words or short phrases
Hyphenator	Automatically breaks words at the end of lines and adds hyphens to help justify text within a line
Contextual speller	Flags words that are spelled correctly but are not the correct words in the given context