

## LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupo F - Gabarito

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow. Write in **English**.

### Language

Around three-quarters of the world's 6,000 languages are spoken by indigenous people. Each of those languages embodies their perceptions, beliefs and knowledge. Language is inseparable from the identity and well-being of any group, and is the means for carrying traditions through generations.

The diversity of indigenous languages across continents is enormous - and evidence of the vast spans of time during which these societies have existed. In pre-settled California alone, linguists estimate that the original populations spoke about 80 different languages, most now extinct. These languages are generally without a written tradition; almost all forms of history, spirituality and practical knowledge depend on the spoken word, and are lost once a language has died.



Errington/Hutchison

Cultural riches: traditional storytelling keeps the Dinka language alive

Language is what gives an individual their identity and confirms their links with their family and community. More fundamentally for tribal people in animist cultures (that is, who believe that plants and objects in the world around them have souls), there is a magical connection between a word and the object or person it names. The act of naming penetrates to the inner heart of creation. To lose their language is to forfeit not only their connection with the world, but also their power over it.

Tribal languages are dying out every day. Some linguists estimate that around 5,000 languages or dialects have disappeared in the last 100 years. The pace of this loss continues to accelerate as the market economy reaches even remote corners of the world and indigenous peoples learn outside languages in order to become part of it.

Because language can link people so closely to their beliefs and the land around them, the intentional elimination of languages has been very important in efforts to oppress, or marginalise, or exploit their identity. To lose a language is to lose an entire way of life. For instance, when Europe began colonising the New World, there was a concerted effort to wipe out indigenous languages and replace them with European ones.

Today, the spread of today's global monoculture is a similar process. In fact, the reach of satellite-based media empires is far greater - and potentially just as damaging - as the colonial empires of the past. This combined with education often being in the language of the dominant culture is vastly contributing to the accelerating extinction of indigenous languages.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/tribe/topics/language.shtml> (July 2006)

#### Glossary:

forfeit - give up  
concerted - concentrated  
wipe out - eradicate

## LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupo F - Gabarito

**1st QUESTION:** (2,5 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

"[...] almost all forms of history, spirituality and practical knowledge depend on the spoken word, and are lost once a language has died". (lines 14-16)

Discuss this argument in the light of the author's views along the text. (Write about 20-40 words)

**Suggested answer:**

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All through the text, the major argument of the author is the fact that once a language is lost, a culture and tradition are lost as well. It is by means of language and culture that individuals perpetuate their identities and traditions.

**2nd QUESTION:** (2,5 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

The well-known British linguist David Crystal, in his book "English as a global language" (1997), states that:

"Language has no independent existence, living in some sort of mystical space apart from the people who speak it. Language exists only in the brains and mouths and ears and hands and eyes of its users". (p. 5)

Make a parallel between Crystal's view above and the text "Language". (Write about 20-40 words)

**Suggested answer:**

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Both Crystal and the author of the text "Language" present similar views concerning the same issue. For Crystal, language is totally dependent on its speakers and their culture. The text "Language" states that "language is inseparable from the identity and well-being of any group".

## LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupo F - Gabarito

**3th QUESTION:** (1,5 mark)

Avaliador

Revisor

The suffix “-ing” appears in various words in the text. Extract from the text three sentences in which it is used to make up words which belong to each one of the classes below.

### Suggested answers:

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- (1) adjective: “[...] just as damaging - as the colonial empires of the past” (line 31)  
“[...] to the accelerating extinction of indigenous languages.” (lines 32-33)
- (2) noun: “[...] the identity and well-being of any group [...]” (lines 4-5)  
“The act of naming penetrates to the inner heart of creation”. (lines 19-20)
- (3) verb: “[...]the means for carrying traditions [...]” (lines 4-5)  
“Tribal languages are dying out every day”. (line 22)  
“[...] when Europe began colonising the new world [...]” (line 28)  
“This combined with education often being in the language [...]” (lines 31-32)  
“[...] the language of the dominant culture is vastly contributing [...]” (line 32)

**4th QUESTION:** (1,0 mark)

Avaliador

Revisor

Observe the use of the correlative pair not only ... but also in lines 20-21. Rewrite the sentence with a different connector (or connectors) but maintaining the same meaning.

### Suggested answers:

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To lose their language is to forfeit their connection with the world and (also) their power over it.

To lose their language is to forfeit their connection with the world as well as their power over it.

To lose their language is to forfeit both their connection with the world and their power over it.

To lose their language is to forfeit both their connection with the world as well as their power over it.

To lose their language is to forfeit both their connection with the world and their power over it as well.

## LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupo F - Gabarito

**5th QUESTION:** (2,5 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

In your opinion, what could be done to stop all “the accelerating extinction of indigenous languages” (lines 32-33)? (Write about 20-40 words)

Candidates are expected to present their views in a short and coherent paragraph.

### **Suggested answers:**

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Minority languages should be treated with respect. People should be allowed to keep their languages and therefore their traditions. Projects aiming at preserving indigenous cultures and languages could be created.

### **Observação relativa ao gabarito proposto:**

- Outras respostas podem estar corretas, desde que sejam coerentes e redigidas de forma adequada.