

For questions 17-24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example: (0) **APART**

Foreign languages

It's common knowledge that having a good command of languages sets you **0** _____ as a well-rounded, educated individual. But is it really worth having in our day and age? Admittedly, the original purpose of spending **17** _____ hours mastering another language has lost some of its relevance.

The reason is simple – technological progress. Most modern translation apps support any language **18** _____, including those that are long dead, such as Latin. The speed and quality of their translation has increased **19** _____ over the past decade, so now your phone is well **20** _____ to help you overcome the dreaded language barrier.

So does that mean that we might as well give up on mastering other languages? Well, not at all. One should keep in mind that knowing and using a language other than your native one has undisputable benefits. The biggest one keeping your brain age low through **21** _____ to considerable mental exercising that using a non-native language entails. It can also make you more **22** _____, as mastering a foreign language shows **23** _____. Finally, it offers valuable **24** _____ into a culture that is different from your own, which are likely to be missed without knowing the language.

0 PART
17 COUNT
18 IMAGINE
19 CONSIDER
20 ABLE
21 EXPOSE
22 EMPLOY
23 COMMIT
24 SIGHT

Answers and explanations

17. **Countless.** The general idea is that learning a language takes up a lot of one's time. The expression 'countless hours' conveys the idea we are looking for.
18. **Imaginable.** We point out the fact that any language that exists can be handled by a piece of software nowadays.
19. **Considerably.** The main challenge in this gap is to understand that it is the adverb that we need.
20. **Capable.** You might feel like the original word fits the gap – and it does, in a way. However, the word always has to be changed – you will never get to use the original word form, a change has to be introduced.
21. **Exposure.** Exposure is your first-hand experience of something. Your brain has to process a lot of information when using a foreign language, so it gets exposed to considerable mental effort.
22. **Employable.** An employable person is one that is more likely to get a job. 'Employed' should not be used – as it means 'having a job' - definitely not what the context says.
23. **Commitment.** Your ability to stick to what you do for a long period of time, or to be able to keep your promise, is called 'commitment'. The word is only used positively.
24. **Insights.** The plural form of the noun is necessary as the second part of the sentence uses the plural auxiliary 'are'.