

PLURILINGUAL WORKSHEET

London, a multicultural city

1 There are over 8 million Londoners. Do you know how many speak a language other than English? Read the text and find out.

Many tourists of different nationalities come to London – you can hear many different languages in Trafalgar Square. But tourists are not the only speakers of other languages. You can hear many different languages in the schools and streets around all the London boroughs. 1.7 million Londoners have a first language which is not English. The total number of languages spoken by school children in London is more than 300.

Many boroughs in London have different language

communities. Ealing, in the west of London, has a very large Polish population. In Haringey, Turkish is the second-most spoken language after English. Other areas, such as Lambeth, have a wide mix of European languages including Spanish and Portuguese. The district of Southall in Ealing is sometimes known as 'Little India' and is a popular shopping destination, where you can buy a range of Asian food, spices, clothes and jewellery. (See the map in exercise 2b.)



2a Here are some quotes from of London school children who speak languages other than English. Underline the languages they mention in the speech bubbles.

I'm Usha. I live in Hounslow.
At home I speak Gujarati. I speak English in class, but in the playground I speak Urdu to my friends.

I'm Tomasz. My family came to England from Poland in August 2013. Now I live in Ealing. I'm learning English.

I'm Kuldeep. I'm Sikh. I live in Southall, Ealing. We speak Punjabi in my family. My grandparents came from the Punjab in India in 1965.

I'm Dilip. I live in Tower Hamlets. I speak Bengali at home, but I talk in Urdu with other people in my street.

I'm Yasmin. I live in Haringey. My Dad's parents came to England from Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, in 1975. My mum came from Turkey. We speak Turkish at home.

I'm Esther. I'm from Nigeria. I speak Yoruba at home, but I speak English, too. I go to school in Peckham, Southwark.

My name is Jacinta. My parents have a Portuguese café in Lambeth. It's very popular with Brazilians and Portuguese visitors to London. They like to speak Portuguese together and watch football on TV.

I'm Rashed. I live in the Westminster area of London. I speak Arabic to my family and English at school.

I'm Didier. My family came from France in 2012 because my father's job moved to London. We live in Kensington. I speak French and English at home and at school.

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2b Mark where the teenagers live on the map of London boroughs.



3 Which is the number one language other than English in London? Work in pairs and discuss your ideas.

Arabic Bengali French Gujarati Polish
Portuguese Punjabi Spanish Turkish Urdu

4 How many languages are spoken in your country? How many languages are spoken in your school? Work in groups and make a poster to show the different languages.