

I 2

The Little Prince in one hundred languages

E 1

The English language in the world

Read the questions carefully!
Answer with the questions one at a time!
Please answer in full sentences!



1. You and your world of languages.

- a) What is your name? _____
- b) Where do you live? _____
- c) Which languages and dialects are spoken there?

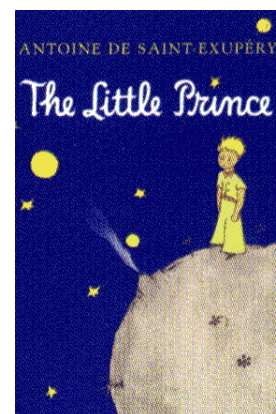
- d) Where were you born? _____
- e) Which languages and dialects are spoken in this city or region?

- f) Which (other) languages and dialects do you speak?

2. You and the Little Prince.

- a) Have you ever read the book *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry?
 yes no
- b) In which language did you read it?

- c) What comes into your mind when you think of the Little Prince?



3. Today we are going on a virtual trip through the world with the Little Prince. Before you start, think of the countries in which English is spoken.


a) In which countries is English spoken as the first language?

b) Have you ever been to one of these countries? Which?

c) When and why did you visit these countries?



4. To start your journey around the world, please visit the following website, <http://www.germanistik.uni-halle.de/prinz>, where you will find a famous extract from *The Little Prince* in over one hundred languages and dialects.

Read the text on the start page before you begin the following tasks. Click on the little world map !

5. First of all, please travel to the continent of North America. There are three little loudspeakers. Click on the icons and you will find three recordings in the English language.

a) Listen to them a number of times while reading the text.

b) Look at the three web pages. Where do the speakers come from?

<i>recording</i>	<i>city</i>	<i>country</i>
1 st		
2 nd		
3 rd		

6. At the three web pages you will find additional information about the language.

a) To which family of languages does English belong?

English is a...

Afro-Asian language

Slavic language

Romance language

Eurasian language

Germanic language

Celtic language

b) You already know that English was originally spoken only in Europe. Can you explain why it is today spoken in America? How did it come there?

7. The two countries in Europe in which English is spoken as the first language are Ireland and the United Kingdom. Go there and look for all the English recordings.

a) Where do the English speakers come from?

<i>recording</i>	<i>city</i>	<i>country</i>
1 st		
2 nd		

b) Choose one of these two recordings. Write down the text.



c) Listen to the chosen recording several times and try to read the text with the same pronunciation. Listen to the original as often as you like.

8. Compare the English language recordings of Europe and of America.

a) Can you hear any differences? yes no

b) If “yes”, explain them!

9. In the United Kingdom and in Ireland you will find recordings of other languages.

a) Write down the name of the language, the city and the country from where the speaker comes and the family of languages.

A tip:
 Two of these languages are Celtic and two are Germanic languages.

<i>recording</i>	<i>name of the language</i>	<i>city</i>	<i>country</i>	<i>family of languages</i>
1 st				
2 nd				
3 rd				
4 th				

b) Listen to each of these languages.

c) Is there any language that sounds familiar to you? yes no

d) If “yes”, which?

e) Why? Explain.



10. The following text belongs to one of the recordings above (task n° 9). It is an ancient language that shows an older form in the development of the English language as we know today.

Lō, zionza æpelinz, hæfde ic stycemælum onziten þæt unbliþe is þin lif. Wæs þæt lonze hwile þæt þin ānlic zamen wæs sunnan setl zanz þone wlite-beorhtne scēawian. Ymb feower niht þā on morzenne ic þæt zefrægn þā þā þū mē sæzdest: ic synderlice lufize æfen-lēoht.

- a) Look for it again on the website. Listen to it more than once and try to read it at the same time. What can you understand? Which words do you recognize?

- b) Compare this ancient text to the English version.

Ah! little prince. Bit by bit I came to understand your sad little life... For a long time, your only entertainment had been the pleasure of watching sunsets. I learned that new detail on the morning of the fourth day, when you said to me: I am very fond of sunsets.

- c) What can you say about these two texts? What do they have in common?

- d) Underline the words in the two texts that have the same origin. Use a different color for each pair of words.

11. Now go to India and look for the English recording that exist there.

- a) Where does the speaker come from?

<i>city</i>	<i>country</i>

- b) In India many other languages are spoken. Listen to them and write down the names of these languages.



- c) Why do people in India often speak English as a second language. Do you have an idea? Explain.

12. Now you have listened to a lot of English recordings.

a) Which of these recordings do you like the most?

b) Why? Explain.

13. Now you have completed your trip around some of the English speaking countries in the world. What do you think about the trip you have made today with the Little Prince? Give your opinion. What did you like and dislike? Which task has been the most difficult?



14. Talk about your results with your partner or your group in English. Ask your classmates for the answers they have given. Compare them to yours. Discuss your answers. Make notes about the topics that still are not quite clear or about which you would like to know more.

15. To finish, please read the English text you have chosen in task number 7c out loud. Let your partner or your group decide if it was similar to the original version or not. If “not”, try again.