Rajiv

My country has the second largest number of English-speakers in the world after the USA. It has a population of more than a billion people and 10% of them speak English.

English is important here for three main reasons. First, we were a British colony until 1947, so all of our lessons at school are in English. Secondly, people speak more than 440 different languages around the country, so we use English as a common language. The third reason is that people need English for work. My father works for a software company and he has to speak English in the office. Thousands of people work in technology companies here and they develop software for people all over the world.
Molly

I live on a small island between Cuba and South America. It has a population of nearly three million people and we all speak English. My country is famous for its beautiful beaches, great music, and its fantastic athletes. Have you heard of Usain Bolt? He’s the fastest runner of all time and he comes from my country!

Most of the people on the island are descendants of the slaves who came here hundreds of years ago. At that time we were a British colony, so of course we speak English, although sometimes visitors find our accent a little strange. I live near the sea and my mother works in a hotel. Our island is very popular with tourists from all over the world. But I don’t want to work in a hotel when I am older... I want to be a singer like Bob Marley; I just love reggae music.
Nengi

More than 160 million people live in my country – it’s got the biggest population in Africa. There are more than 500 different languages in my country and English is only a second language for most people. However, at school all our lessons are in English. This is because my country was a British colony. It became independent in 1960. At home I speak two different languages. With my mother I speak Igbo and with my father I speak Yoruba, but we also speak English. When I finish school I want to go to England to study journalism at university. Then I want to come home and work for a TV company.
Vanessa

About 35 million people live in my country and there are two national languages, French and English. Most people speak English as their first language, except in Quebec. Quebec is a French-speaking province and French is the first language there. My friend, Veronique, lives in Quebec and in her school all the lessons are in French.

I live in Vancouver, a city on the west coast. In my school, lessons are in English, except for French lessons, of course! I was born here, but my grandparents were born in Britain. In fact, a lot of people here originally came from Britain. There are a lot of Chinese people here, too. In one area of my city, all the shops and restaurants are Chinese, and it feels like you’re in China!