

**Subject: America's Tower of Babel**

**1. True or False.**

- a) There are over 250 million native speakers of English in the US.
- b) Spanish is the fourth most common language spoken in America.
- c) There are a dozen Chinatowns in New York.
- d) French can be most commonly heard in the South.
- e) Italian is getting more and more popular in the States.



**2. Find and correct five grammatical and lexical mistakes in the text below.**

The next language on the list is Vietnamese. The United States see a huge influx of refugees from Vietnam following the Vietnam War, and heaps of family members continue to immigrate to the USA today. In total, 1.4 mln Vietnamese speakers calls the United States home. Most of them had been found in the hustling urban centres of Texas and Southern California like Houston, San Jose and Los Angeles.



**3. Connect the words with their antonyms.**

a) minority	varied
b) homogeneous	lifeless
c) disperse	majority
d) increase	decrease
e) bustling	unite

**4. Match the description with the correct language.**

*Russian, French, German, Italian, Arabic*

- a) Nearly 1.3 mln speakers of this language can still be found across the USA. The largest chunk can be found in the state of Louisiana.
- b) This language is very common in New York, but it's also widespread in states like California, Washington and Illinois. It's the 9th most popular language of the US.
- c) It's currently the only language in America's top ten with declining popularity.
- d) It's America's fastest growing language.
- e) Those who speak this European language can be found in places like North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Indiana.

**5. Match the loanwords with the language of their origin.**

*balcony, bouquet, schnitzel, tsar, bravado, ballet, coyote, soprano, zeppelin, vodka*

a) French:	b) Russian:	c) Italian:	d) Spanish:	e) German:

**6. Fill the blanks with the most fitting phrases and words used in *American Tower of Babel*.**

*stayed put, give or take, keep my ears to the ground, bustling, take a gander*

- Back in 1908 nearly all of my family left the Old Country to go to America. Only my great grandmother \_\_\_\_\_
- Yeah, I've heard that at the beginning of the 20th Century the immigrant ships were \_\_\_\_\_ with Italian immigrants. Between 1900 and 1910 over two million Italians came to the States, \_\_\_\_\_
- True, my ancestors were among them. Although I've never been to the Boot, I follow all the Italian news. You could say I \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to Italian politics and cultural events.
- I know a bit of Italian – if you find something interesting, shoot me a link. I'll be glad to \_\_\_\_\_ at what's going on across the Pond.

**Answer keys:**

1 a) true; b) false; c) true; d) true; e) false

2 1. The United States saw a huge...; 2. ...and heaps of family members; 3. ...Vietnamese speakers call the United States home; 4. Most of them can be found in...; 5. ...the bustling urban centres...

3 a) minority – majority; b) homogeneous – varied; c) disperse – unite; d) increase – decrease; e) bustling - lifeless

4 a) French; b) Russian; c) Italian; d) Arabic; e) German

5 a) French: bouquet, ballet; b) Russian: tsar, vodka; c) Italian: balcony, soprano; d) Spanish: bravado, coyote; e) German: schnitzel, zeppelin

6 stayed put, bustling, give or take, keep my ears to the ground, take a gander