

Lesson 2/3. Can Chinese become a global language?

TASK 1. Read three short articles on the chances of Chinese - Mandarin replacing English as a world language:

TASK 1/A. First scan all three texts and connect the features with the number of the appropriate text.

Text 1	A. argues for the possibility of Chinese overtaking English because of China's growing economic influence and the sharply increasing representation of Chinese on the internet.
Text 2	B. is against the idea that Mandarin can replace English as a global language mainly because of the socio-political status of China in Southeast Asia.
Text 3	C. presents realistic chances that Chinese might become the dominant language in Asia and the second global language even in Europe on account of the sharp increase in learning Chinese as a foreign language.

TASK 1/B. Compare the potential of Chinese and English for a global language status based on text 1. Connect the features either with English or with Chinese.

Note: As the articles use Mandarin and Chinese interchangeably, in the tasks Chinese will be used.

English is	simple and direct.
English is the language	complex and difficult to learn.
English has	not much supra-regional prestige.
English language structure is	of pop culture, sport, technology all over the world.
English has no	gender, generational or class distinction.
Chinese language structure is	a vehicle to represent political and cultural threat for the countries in its region.
Chinese has	of a country surpassed in economic power and population by several neighbouring countries.
Chinese is not	spread around the globe due to the colonial past.
Chinese is the language	understandable everywhere even in its native country.
Chinese is	political bias.