

Dyrk sproget – en kreativ sprogkonkurrence

for gymnasieelever

Skoleåret 2020/21

Engelsk – underemne 1

English as Lingua Franca



Det Nationale
Center for
Fremmedsprog

Introduction: English as Lingua Franca and English as a Foreign Language

English as Lingua Franca (ELF) refers to the use of the English language as a means of global communication, and is spoken by people who either speak English as a native language or people who speak English as a Foreign Language. ELF is usually defined by its use of intercultural communication rather than all the norms and cultural aspects that represent English as spoken by a native language user.

When people who are not native to a country in the English-speaking part of the world try to communicate in English, they do not always succeed in their communication. Maybe they are not able to apply the various grammatical and linguistic rules of the English language, or they might have a limited vocabulary. There can be an array of reasons as to why their communication fails, but most cases it's because English is a little more complicated than originally thought. Some might have tried to order "pommes frites" at a MacDonalds in London, or others might have asked for a rubber in an American school, even though a "viskelæder" is called an erazor in American English. So to communicate fluently with native speakers of English you need to have an awareness of cultural differences which is simply not relevant when you as a Dane use English as a means of communication with e.g. a Belgian colleague or fellow student.

In the exercises below, you will work with English as Lingua Franca and English as a Foreign Language in different ways. Hopefully, the exercises will raise your awareness towards some of the challenges that lie within the areas of English as an international language of communication, and maybe you might even be able to incorporate some of the ideas into your video for the competition, but that is completely up to you.

For the video competition, you must focus on some of the challenges in using English as Lingua Franca (ELF) when set in a Danish context. What are some of the areas of ELF exchange students must be aware of, and what could create problems for an exchange student visiting Denmark, when most of the communication will be in English. Are there certain aspects of Danish culture that might create a problem, and what things should an exchange student visiting Denmark for the first time know?

Language and identity

Language is closely connected to who we are. We express ourselves through language. We "do" things through language and understand the world through language.

Most of us are born and raised **monolingually** with one language as our mother tongue (First language) Some are raised **bilingually** with two languages.

Hubert Moore, Change at Leeds (2016)

Study the poem on the next page and consider how language defines who we are and how language becomes the thing that can save us when we are lost.

<p>I can see you now. You draw yourself up to your full height, your best South East English, to ask a uniformed man at Leeds about your connection to Bradford.</p> <p>He shakes his head, tries his Yorkshire accent on you. You hardly catch a word. Is it an exile's homing instinct that you slip back into sleep-talk and ask,</p> <p>in Amharic, what platform please for Bradford? And that he, in sleep-talk too, gives you platform-number, time of departure, arrival-time at Bradford, in Amharic?</p> <p>2016 (Published in Lucy Popescu, <i>A Country of Refugees</i>, 2016)</p>	<p>1: Describe the 3 languages/accents mentioned in the poem. Where and how are they spoken?</p> <p>a: South East English b: Yorkshire accent c: Amharic</p>
	<p>2: Where does the poem take place and what is the situation?</p>
	<p>3: How do the two men communicate at the beginning?</p>
	<p>4: Explain the expression "an exile's homing instinct"</p>
	<p>5: What do you think Hubert Moore means when he says that the two men turn to "sleep-talk" ?</p>

LINGUA FRANCA and MULTILINGUALISM

Having more than one language makes it possible to communicate with people speaking other languages.

And learning foreign languages makes you **multilingual**. When you use English to speak to someone who speaks a different language than your own, you use English as a **lingua franca**. You meet on common ground, so to speak.

1: How many languages do you speak in your class? How many speak Danish as their first language? How many are bilingual? Which foreign languages have you learned at school?

2: When have you used English as a communication tool?

Think of different situations where you have spoken English because you were unable to speak the language of the country you were in, or where you have met people from other non-English speaking countries.

What is LINGUA FRANCA

Watch the short youtube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9ZdC6wZnks> and take notes.

1: How does the speaker define lingua franca?

2: Do we have a Lingua Franca in Scandinavia?

English as a LINGUA FRANCA (ELF)

When we learn English in school, we learn it as an foreign language (English as a foreign language EFL). We learn not just about the language (grammar, vocabulary, idioms, pronunciation and accent), we also learn about the culture and history of the English speaking countries. . Using English as a LINGUA FRANCA (ELF) focusses on English as a means of communication. We need to adapt the English we speak so that it can be understood by the person we talk to. Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation are still important. Accents are less important. You can speak with a Danish-English accent and still be understood, but you have to pronounce the words correctly and a wrong use of culturally specific idioms can make communication difficult.

1. Find the article "9 steps to overcoming language barriers in the workplace" published by the ARGO translation company <https://www.argotrans.com/blog/9-steps-overcoming-language-barriers>

How do the 9 items listed by the company relate to ELF?

How does ELF play a role in these examples?

1. LENA - a short film <https://vimeo.com/428000789>

In the short film **Lena**, a young girl has to translate for her father at a PTA meeting. Explain why communication in English is such a central theme in the short film.

2. In the excerpt from the novel **A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary** (2007) by Xiaolu Guo, a young Chinese woman travels from China to Britain. Although her English is broken, she still manages to communicate. Find examples of EFL in the text.

Now.

Beijing time 12 clock midnight. London time 5 clock afternoon. But I at neither time zone. I on airplane. Sitting on 25,000 km above to earth and trying remember all English I learning in school. I not met you yet. You in future.

Looking outside the massive sky. Thinking air staffs need to set a special time-zone for long-distance airplanes, or passengers like me very confusing about time. When a body floating in air, which country she belonging to?

People's Republic of. China passport bending in my pocket.

I worry bending passport bring trouble to immigration officer, he might doubting passport is fake and refusing me into the UK, even with noble word on the page:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China requests all civil and military authorities of foreign countries to allow the bearer of this passport to pass freely and afford assistance in case of need.

China further and further, disappearing behind clouds. Below is ocean. I from desert town. Is the first time my life I see sea. It look like a dream.

As I far away from China, I asking me why I coming to West. Why I must to study English like parents wish? Why I must to get diploma from West? I not knowing what I needing. Sometimes I not even caring what I needing. I not caring if I speaking English or not. Mother only speaking in village dialect and even not speaking official Mandarin, but she becoming rich with my father, from making shoes in our little town. Life OK. Why they want changing my life?

And how I living in strange country West alone? I never been to West. Only Western I seeing is man working in Beijing British Embassy behind tiny window. He stamp visa on brand new passport. What else I knowing about West? American TV series dubbing into Chinese, showing us big houses in suburb, wife by window cooking and car arriving in front house. Husband back work. Husband say Honey I home, then little childrens running to him, see if he bringing gift. But that not my life. That nothing to do with my life. I not having life in West. I not having home in West. I scared.

I no speaking English.

I fearing future.

Is unbelievable, I arriving London, 'Heathlow Airport'. Every single name very difficult remembering, because just not 'London Airport' simple way like we simple way call 'Beijing Airport'. Everything very confuse way here, passengers is separating in two queues.

Sign in front of queue say: ALLEN and NON ALIEN. I am alien, like Hollywood film *Alien*, I live in another planet, with funny looking and strange language.

I standing in most longly and slowly queue with all aliens waiting for visa checking. I feel little criminal but I doing nothing wrong so far. My English so bad. How to do?

In my text book I study back China, it says English peoples talk like this:

"How are you?"

"I am very well. How are you ?"

"I am very well."

Question and answer exactly the same! Old saying in China: '*Birds have their bird language, beasts have their beast talk*'. English they totally another species.

Immigration officer holding my passport behind his accouter, my heart hanging on high sky.

Finally he stamping on my visa. My heart touching down like air plane. Ah. Wo. Ho. Ha. Picking up my luggage, now I a legal foreigner. Because legal foreigner from Communism region, I must re-educate, must match this capitalism

freedom and Western democracy.

All I know is: I not understanding what people say to me at all. From now on, I go with *Concise Chinese-English Dictionary* at all times. It is red cover, look just like *Little Red Book*. I carrying important book, even go to the toilet, in case I not knowing the words for some advanced machine and need checking out in dictionary. Dictionary is most important thing from China.

Concise meaning

simple and clean.

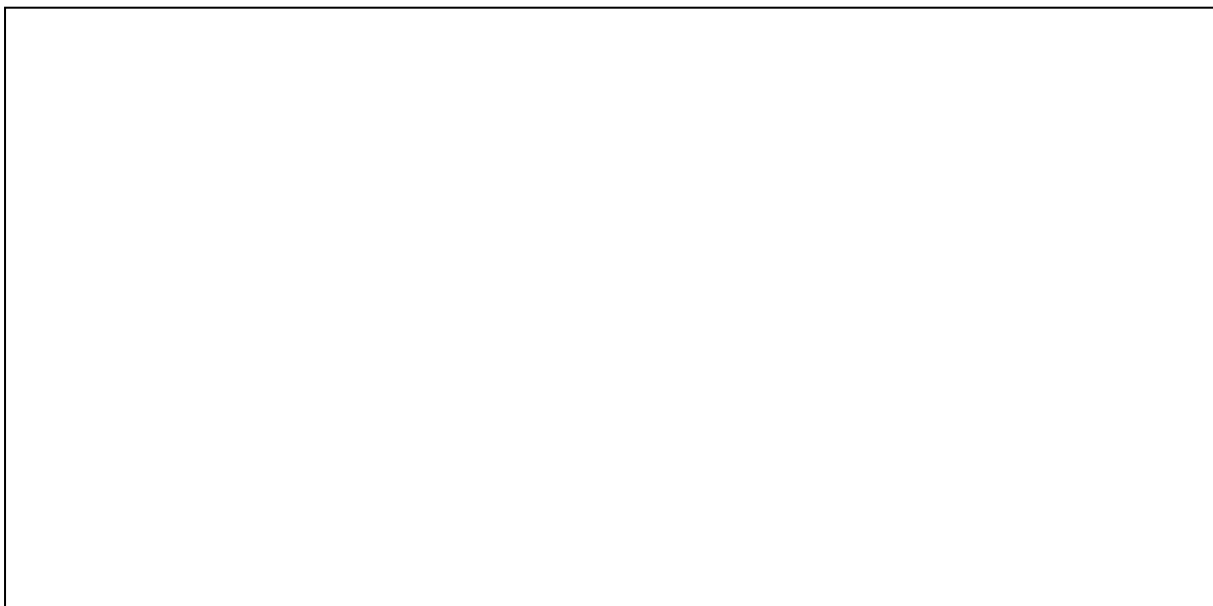
Examples of EFL in the novel **A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary** (2007) by Xiaolu Guo



3. In July, 2020 the American secretary of State, Mike Pompeo visited Copenhagen. Jeppe Kofod, the Danish foreign minister, spoke at the press conference:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=716532792262627&extid=jSU1mZsRuGM4pEW>

Listen to the video and comment on how Jeppe Kofoed uses English. You may find a couple of mistakes - but do they interfere with his message?



Sproglig iagttagelse

I hver af de nedenstående teksteksempler er der en eller flere grammatiske fejl, forkert brug af idiomer eller afvigelser fra standardsprog. Skriv den korrekte tekst, og forklar dine rettelser med udgangspunkt i sangteksterne. Brug relevant grammatisk/faglig terminologi. Skriv din forklaring på dansk. Find evt. flere selv.

1. If I was a rich girl (na, na)
See, I'd have all the money in the world, if I was a wealthy girl
No man could test me, impress me, my cash flow would never ever end
Cause I'd have all the money in the world, if I was a wealthy girl
 - Gwen Stefani: Rich Girl (2004)

2. Ghostbusters!
If there's something strange
In your neighborhood
Who you gonna call?
Ghostbusters!
 - Jay Parker Jr: Ghostbusters (1984)

3. I'ma make it by any means, I got a pocketful of dreams
Baby I'm from New York
Concrete jungle where dreams are made of
There's nothing you can't do

- Jay-Z: Empire State of Mind (2009)

4. And she is so beautiful
And I'm afraid of breaking her
And I feel like
I am an elephant in a porcelain shop
I wanna lay her down in a sea of roses everywhere, and just float away

- Mads Langer: Elephant (2013)

5. Ain't no sunshine when she's gone
It's not warm when she's away
- Bill Whiter: Ain't no Sunshine (1971)

Ordforråd, gloser, idiomer mm

1: Et ord på dansk, men mange ord på engelsk

Det danske ord **jord** har mange betydninger. På engelsk er der mange ord der hver især dækker disse betydninger: **earth, soil, ground**

Forklar ordenes betydninger og find andre eksempler på dette.

2: Engelske udtryk som er oversat og indoptaget på dansk

Forklar hvorfor det engelsk udtryk **bucket list** bliver oversat til **træskoliste** på dansk.

Find andre engelske låneord og - vendinger.

3: Find "engelske" ord på dansk som IKKE findes i en original engelsk version fx **babylift** og **smoking jakke**

Idiomatic language: verbs with particles, collocations, fixed phrases and a few idioms

1: Verbs with particles or prepositions

Look up the words in the dictionary and find the prepositions and particles (e.g. on, off, up, away) that they can be combined with.

How does the addition of a particle/preposition change the meaning of the verbs?

Verb	Particle/preposition	Meaning
turn	<i>turn up, turn in, turn off, turn away</i>	
bring		
come		
do		
get		
go		
have		
keep		
make		
put		
take		

2: Collocations are the conventional combinations of words that feel natural to a native speaker.

e.g a burning desire, not a ~~blazing~~ desire

Use the Oxford free online collocation dictionary (<https://www.freecollocation.com/>) and find the collocations for the words below

Word	Collocations
success	
love	
offer	
free	
walk	
break	

3: Fixed expressions are used in typical everyday specific situations

Create dialogues where you use the expressions below

just in case.....	
the point is....	
I wouldn't be surprised if....	
Could I reserve a table...	

4: Idioms

Look at the idioms below. Make a Danish translation

Kick the bucket	<i>Stille træskoene</i>
The long and short of it	
When pigs fly	
Jump off the page	
Hit the sack	
Hang in there	
Beat around the bush	
Speak about the devil	

Oversættelsesøvelse

1. Oversæt til engelsk.

Gamle Peter havde stillet træskoene en tirsdag midt i november. Han havde håbet det villes lykkes ham at nå december, hvor han havde 100 års fødselsdag, men sådan blev det ikke. Han havde talt helt sort til sidst, men Katrine havde dog fanget, at han ønskede at dele sol og vind lige, og hun havde derfor slået på tråden til deres advokat. Johanne syntes, det var en rådden beslutning. Hun mente, Peter havde fået rotter på loftet, og at Katrine skulle stikke en finger i jorden. Hvis de kunne klappe kaje længe nok til at Peter var 6 fod under jorden, så kunne de få fingre i den store arv, og så var den ged barberet.