

## English No Longer the World Language?

*Fill in the blanks with the words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need!*

Many children in school \_\_\_\_\_ all over America are taking \_\_\_\_\_ language courses in Chinese. The concept is easy. On one day they learn everything in English and the next they \_\_\_\_\_ to Chinese.

It is an \_\_\_\_\_ to learn languages when you are young because small children \_\_\_\_\_ up the language and use it in \_\_\_\_\_ situations. Chinese has become so \_\_\_\_\_ that some schools even want to \_\_\_\_\_ parents Chinese courses.

Because of China's growing economy and \_\_\_\_\_, Chinese has become a language many people want to learn. In the United States about 50,000 students from kindergarten to eighth \_\_\_\_\_ are taking Chinese, \_\_\_\_\_ to only 5,000 in 2004. About 100 million people worldwide are studying Chinese as a second language.

The Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ has started a number of Confucius Institutes to \_\_\_\_\_ the Chinese language and the country's culture. Currently there are such institutes in over 60 countries. 2,000 students have \_\_\_\_\_ the program in the last two years.

In the Philippines people think that learning Chinese will allow them to get better \_\_\_\_\_ in the future. As more and more Chinese travel to other countries as tourists or on \_\_\_\_\_, people who can speak Chinese have an advantage over others.

In Panama one government official has even thought about making Chinese compulsory in \_\_\_\_\_ schools, however it is so hard to get enough \_\_\_\_\_ teachers to teach Chinese.

In the future Mandarin Chinese might not \_\_\_\_\_ English as the world's number one language but because China is \_\_\_\_\_ further it will become an important language.



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