

# Who Speaks English?

listening



Which countries' populations (excluding those for which English is the native language) speak the best English, and which speak the worst? Do you think, in general, women or men speak the best English?

- ▶) Listen to the first part of the report and check your ideas to the questions above.

In Western Europe, one country is the exception to the rule. Its English proficiency is much lower than its neighbors. Which country do you think that is, and what could be holding it back?

- ▶) Listen to the next part of the report and check your ideas to the questions above.

- ▶) Discuss the following questions and then listen to the next part of the report and check your ideas.



**1** Turkey has the lowest English proficiency in Europe. Turkey's emphasis on what discourages students?

**2** Why do you think China has slipped 10 places in the ranking this year?

**3** Singapore, Malaysia, and India have the highest English proficiency in Asia. What historical links have helped them?

**4** Which country spends the most on English education in the world?

**5** Thailand and Cambodia have strong tourism industries. How has this affected their level of English?

- ▶) Say which of these statements you think are true  and then listen to the next part of the report and check your ideas.

Latin America has shown great improvement over the past eight years in its English proficiency.

Argentina is the only Latin American country to rank as "high proficiency" in the survey.

The report says teacher quality is high across Latin America.

In preparation for the 2016 Olympics, Brazil is offering free English lessons to 150,000 tourism professionals.

Last year, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said the government will invest \$90 million in English education.

- ▶) Listen to the final part of the report and make notes on what is said about these regions and countries:

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq, Yemen, and Libya

Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia

The United Arab Emirates

Syria

sub-Saharan African countries

- 💬 How would you rank the level of English in your country? How good is English teaching in state schools where you live?

