

## Language barriers – Glossary

**alarmed** adjective [not usually before noun]  
frightened or worried that something unpleasant or dangerous might happen

*Don't be alarmed: it wasn't a serious accident.*

**attitude** noun [countable/uncountable]  
someone's opinions or feelings about something, especially as shown by their behavior

*The move reflects changing attitudes among management.*

**decrease** verb [intransitive]  
to become less

*The number of people visiting the park has decreased significantly.*

**expansion** noun [uncountable]  
the process of increasing in size and filling more space

*damage caused to buildings through the expansion and contraction of timbers*

**foremost** adjective  
most important or most well known

*He is one of Mexico's foremost authorities on Aztec culture.*

**native speaker** noun [countable]  
someone who has learned a particular language from the time that they began to speak

**number-one** adjective  
first in order or importance  
*our number-one problem*

**obligatory** adjective  
FORMAL something that is obligatory must be done in order to obey a law or rule

*It is obligatory for members to be insured.*

**power** noun [countable]  
a country that is able to influence other countries because of its economic or military strength  
*China has emerged as a major economic power in Asia.*

**primary** adjective [usually before noun]  
most important  
*Dealing with crime is our primary concern.*

**punch line** noun [countable, usually singular]  
the last few words of a joke, including the part that makes the joke funny

**pupil** noun [countable]  
someone, especially a child, who goes to school or who has classes in a particular subject

**reality** noun [uncountable]  
the real character or nature of things, not what you imagine or think is possible  
*He is no longer able to differentiate between fantasy and reality.*

**recognition** noun [singular/uncountable]  
agreement that something is true or important  
*We want official recognition of the need for affordable childcare.*

**serve** verb [intransitive/transitive]  
to be used for a particular purpose, especially not the main or original purpose  
*Their spare room also serves as an office.*

**statistics** noun [plural]  
a group of numbers that represent facts or that describe a situation  
*Official statistics underestimate the actual level of crime.*

**tend** verb [intransitive]  
to usually do a particular thing  
*He tends to exaggerate.*

**triple** verb [intransitive]  
to increase by three times  
*Sales tripled over a six-month period.*