

## 12 Kommunikáció

It is important to learn a foreign language for several reasons:

- it is necessary for many jobs
- you need it if you travel abroad either on business or as a tourist
- you can read many things in books and on the Internet
- you can study or work abroad
- you need to have a language exam if you want a university degree

English is the most widely used language in the world. If you learn a foreign language, English is probably the most useful language to learn. German, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian are also very useful. Nowadays almost every child studies English or German or both languages at school. You can learn languages at a language school and from a private teacher, too. I know a very good English teacher, his name is Attila. He is very clever, nice and good-looking. Some people try to learn a foreign language on their own, without a teacher. It is possible, if you have some good self-study materials but such materials are difficult to find and most people can't learn a language without a teacher.

Nowadays most people have satellite TV and usually some foreign language channels as well. Watching TV in a foreign language is a very good way to learn or practise a language. You can watch films or the news or cartoons or general knowledge programmes.

You can also buy some English and American newspapers and magazines in Hungary but it is cheaper to read the Internet.

I am studying English because I want to communicate with people in other countries and in most jobs a knowledge of English is required, too. Also, most pop songs are in English.

The computer is very important in my life. I use it for a lot of things. Not everybody uses the computer as much as I do. I use it in my work; I send and receive a lot of emails. In my free time I use Facebook, read interesting things on the Internet (usually in English), and of course, I play computer games. I mustn't play too much because it can become an addiction, just like spending too much time on the Internet. When I was younger, I played too much with computer games and it wasn't good. I think the computer was probably the most important invention in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Computers are used everywhere in our lives and they make life much easier. Computers do a lot of jobs much better and cheaper than people, so they make a lot of products and services cheaper. This is good for us. Computers have developed very much in the past 30 years. One of the most important developments in the history of computers is the Internet. The Internet is a series of interconnected computers in a complicated network. If you go on the Internet, you can see things stored on other computers in the network. Nowadays people have access to an enormous amount of information on the Internet. It is far more information than people had access to even 30 years ago. The email has almost completely replaced letters and faxes. The Internet helps people keep in touch. For example on Skype you can call people on the other side of the world and have a videochat with them at no extra cost. On the other hand, many people, especially teenagers spend too much time on the Internet. They chat with people even when they could get up, go out and meet their friends in person.

There are computers in "smart" devices and in modern cars. Modern cars do more and more instead of the driver, the car of the future will even drive itself. The most common device with a computer is probably the mobile phone. There are more and more powerful computers in modern mobile phones. You can do lot with a mobile phone that you can do with a

computer. You can browse the Internet, play complicated games, send and receive emails, read books, watch videos, listen to music, do wordprocessing, and even do bank transactions on a mobile phone. Of course, you can also call people and send messages. I must say that I carry my mobile phone everywhere with me (except to the bathroom when I have a bath), it is next to my pillow even when I sleep, because it is also my alarm clock 😊.

There are land telephone lines, too but fewer and fewer people use them. Mostly companies use them.

The mass media (TV, radio and the press) can influence people's opinions. Politicians use the mass media to influence people. Politicians need to influence people to convince them to vote for them, often with lies if the people wouldn't like the truth. The mass media also informs people of interesting events, for example accidents, political events, cultural events and celebrity gossip. I don't watch TV very much, I like watching films on the Internet better.