

The Cardinal Points: North and South



Enseñanzas Oficiales de Idiomas
Inglés Nivel Avanzado C1: Segundo curso

Lesson 4

The Cardinal Points: North and South

Get Thinking

- What comes to mind when you think of North and South?
- What hemisphere were you born in?
- What countries lie on the equator?
- How different is life in the Northern and Southern Hemisphere?
- Do you believe the Earth is round?
- What are flat earthers?



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Earth is our home planet. Scientists believe Earth and its moon formed around the same time as the rest of the solar system. They think that was about 4.5 billion years ago. Earth is the fifth-largest planet in the solar system. Its diameter is about 8,000 miles. And Earth is the third-closest planet to the sun. Its average distance from the sun is about 93 million miles. Only Mercury and Venus are closer.

Humans have known that Earth is round for more than 2,000 years! The ancient Greeks measured shadows during summer solstice and also calculated Earth's circumference. They used positions of stars and constellations to estimate distances on Earth. They could even see the planet's round shadow on the moon during a lunar eclipse. We still can see this during lunar eclipses.

Today, scientists use geodesy, which is the science of measuring Earth's shape, gravity and rotation. Geodesy provides accurate measurements that show Earth is round.

Even though our planet is a sphere, it is not a perfect sphere. Because of the force caused when Earth rotates, the North and South Poles are slightly flat. Earth's rotation, wobbly motion and other forces are making the planet change shape very slowly.

Earth orbits the sun once every 365 days, or one year. The shape of its orbit is not quite a perfect circle. It's more like an oval, which causes Earth's distance from the sun to vary during the year. Earth is nearest the sun, or at "perihelion," in January when it's about 91 million miles away. Earth is farthest from the sun, or at "aphelion," in July when it's about 95 million miles away.

At the equator, Earth spins at just over 1,000 miles per hour. Earth makes a full spin around its axis once every 24 hours, or one day. The axis is an imaginary line through the center of the planet from the North Pole to the South Pole. Rather than straight up and down, Earth's axis is tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees.

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-is-earth-58.html>

How much do you know about the Earth? Take this [quiz](#) and find out!

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/zBEGxqJKup8>

Video by Lovesongtotheearth on [Youtube](#)

1. The Hemispheres

Do it yourself

Read the text and choose a word for each gap. After you check your answers, try to define each of the terms using your own words.



Image in [Wikimedia Commons](#) under Public Domain

Any circle drawn around the Earth divides it into two equal , called hemispheres. There are generally considered to be four hemispheres: Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western.

The Equator, or line of 0 degrees , divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern hemispheres. The Northern Hemisphere contains North America, the northern part of South America, Europe, the northern two-thirds of Africa, and most of Asia. The Southern Hemisphere contains most of South America, one-third of Africa, Australia, Antarctica, and some Asian islands.

There are differences in the climates of the Northern and Southern hemispheres because of the Earth's seasonal toward and away from the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, the warmer summer months are from June through September. In the Southern Hemisphere, summer begins in December and ends in March.

The Earth can also be divided into hemispheres along , or lines of longitude. The prime , or 0 degrees longitude, and the International Date Line, 180 degrees longitude, divide the Earth into Eastern and Western hemispheres. Many geographers consider the 20 degree west line of and the 160 degree east line of longitude as the Eastern and Western hemispheres. This calculation is made so that Africa and Europe are not .

The idea of Eastern and Western hemispheres has become politically and historically significant since European nations began colonizing North America and South America. In this context, the Eastern Hemisphere is sometimes called the "Old World," and the Western Hemisphere is called the "New World." However, the Western Hemisphere is a purely term and should not be confused with other mentions of the "western" world, which is often used to describe parts of Europe, North America and other world regions that share some economic, social, and cultural values.

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/hemisphere/>

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Any circle drawn around the Earth divides it into two equal **halves** called hemispheres. There are generally considered to be four hemispheres: Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western.

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The Earth can also be divided into hemispheres along meridians, or lines of longitude. The prime **meridian**, or 0 degrees longitude, and the International Date Line, 180 degrees longitude, divide the Earth into Eastern and Western hemispheres. Many geographers consider the 20 degree west line of **longitude** and the 160 degree east line of **longitude** as the Eastern and Western hemispheres. This calculation is made so that Africa and Europe are not **split**.

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Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/hemisphere/>

Do it yourself

Watch this video about why there are different seasons, then answer the questions below.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/WgHmqv_-UbQ

Video by California Academy of Sciences on YouTube

1. Why does the Sun shine differently on Earth at different times of the year?
2. Why is winter weather generally cold?
3. When are days and nights about equal in length?
4. When does sunlight strike the Northern Hemisphere more directly?
5. Why is it that when it's summer in the Northern Hemisphere it's winter in the Southern Hemisphere?

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1. Why does the Sun shine differently on Earth at different times of the year? Because the Earth remains tilted in the same direction when it rotates.
2. Why is winter weather generally cold? Because during those months, sunlight strikes the Northern Hemisphere at a shallow angle for a short period of time.
3. When are days and nights about equal in length? This happens in spring, as a result of the Earth tilting neither toward nor away from the Sun.
4. When does sunlight strike the Northern Hemisphere more directly? In the summer.
5. Why is it that when it's summer in the Northern Hemisphere it's winter in the Southern Hemisphere? The seasons are reversed due to the Earth's tilt.



Your classmate did not understand the video about the Earth's seasons very well. Read the following article that contains information about the same topic and summarize it to him/her. When you summarize, take into account the following:

- Skim the text to get a general idea of the topic
- Delete unnecessary or redundant material
- Find the main ideas in the text
- Find or create a topic sentence
- Substitute general or "umbrella" terms when appropriate (for example, trees instead of oak, maple, and pine)

Source: <https://www.teachervision.com/summarizing>

THE EARTH'S SEASONS

A season is a period of the year that is distinguished by special climate conditions. The four seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter—follow one another regularly. Each has its own light, temperature, and weather patterns that repeat yearly.

In the Northern Hemisphere, winter generally begins on December 21 or 22. This is the winter solstice, the day of the year with the shortest period of daylight. Summer begins on June 20 or 21, the summer solstice, which has the most daylight of any day in the year. Spring and fall, or autumn, begin on equinoxes, days that have equal amounts of daylight and darkness. The vernal, or spring, equinox falls on March 20 or 21, and the autumnal equinox is on September 22 or 23.

The seasons in the Northern Hemisphere are the opposite of those in the Southern Hemisphere. This means that in Argentina and Australia, winter begins in June. The winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere is June 20 or 21, while the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, is December 21 or 22.

Seasons occur because Earth is tilted on its axis relative to the orbital plane, the invisible, flat disc where most objects in the solar system orbit the sun. Earth's axis is an invisible line that runs through its center, from pole to pole. Earth rotates around its axis.

In June, when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the sun, the sun's rays hit it for a greater part of the day than in winter. This means it gets more hours of daylight. In December, when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, with fewer hours of daylight.

Seasons have an enormous influence on vegetation and plant growth. Winter typically has cold weather, little daylight, and limited plant growth. In spring, plants sprout, tree leaves unfurl, and flowers blossom. Summer is the warmest time of the year and has the most daylight, so plants grow quickly. In autumn, temperatures drop, and many trees lose their leaves.

The four-season year is typical only in the mid-latitudes. The mid-latitudes are places that are neither near the poles nor near the Equator. The farther north you go, the bigger the differences in the seasons. Helsinki, Finland, sees 18.5 hours of daylight in the middle of June. In mid-December, however, it is light for less than 6 hours. Athens, Greece, in southern Europe, has a smaller variation. It has 14.5 hours of daylight in June and 9.5 hours in December.

Places near the Equator experience little seasonal variation. They have about the same amount of daylight and darkness throughout the year. These places remain warm year-round. Near the Equator, regions typically have alternating rainy and dry seasons.

Polar regions experience seasonal variation, although they are generally colder than other places on Earth. Near the poles, the amount of daylight changes dramatically between summer and winter. In Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost city in the U.S., it stays light all day long between mid-May and early August. The city is in total darkness between mid-November and January.

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/season/>

Culture counts

Why Does The Moon Look Upside Down From Australia?

Those of us who live in the Northern Hemisphere of our planet are used to a very specific view of the Moon, and, if you never travel outside of the Northern Hemisphere, journeying only to Europe, North America, Asia or the Arctic expanses, that view of the Moon would never change by very much.

However, once you move to the Southern Hemisphere, visiting South America, Africa, Australia or New Zealand, something will indeed seem off about the Moon. It's upside down in the sky, relative to what you'd be used to in the Northern Hemisphere. Likewise, if you're used to a Southern Hemisphere sky, moving to the Northern Hemisphere will turn the Moon upside down relative to what you're used to.

Many of the portraits of the Moon are oriented in the way you'd see them from the Northern Hemisphere. There's nothing fundamental about this orientation relative to the Southern Hemisphere orientation, but we've designated North as "up" for long enough that that convention has expanded outwards to the whole solar system. With that convention, it makes sense to display the Moon "right-side up," with the view from the Northern half of the planet.

The Moon is probably the most dramatic example of this in the night sky, simply because we know it so well, but it's not the only object that may appear odd in the Southern sky if you're used to the Northern view. Constellations do the exact same thing. Some Northern constellations are not visible in the Southern skies, but Orion, one of the brightest and easiest-to-spot constellations in the Northern winter sky, is visible from both hemispheres. And just like the Moon's change, Orion appears upside down, his head towards the ground instead of the rest of the stars overhead.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jillianscudder/2017/09/09/astroquizzical-upside-down-moon/#5cbe88e31231>

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/XHzzRbw0lgI>

Video by the BBC on [YouTube](#)

1.1. The Equator

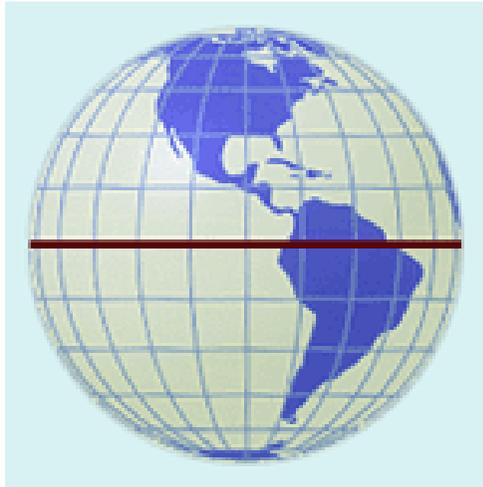


Image in [Wikimedia Commons](#)
under Public Domain

The Equator is a great circle around the Earth that is everywhere equidistant from the geographic poles and lies in a plane perpendicular to the Earth's axis. This geographic, or terrestrial, Equator divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern hemispheres and forms the imaginary reference line on the Earth's surface from which latitude is reckoned; in other words, it is the line with 0° latitude.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Equator>

Do it yourself

Read the following facts about the Equator and match the headings to the paragraphs.

The Equator Facts



Image in [Wikimedia Commons](#) under CC license

Everybody knows about the imaginary line on the Earth's surface that lies equidistant from the North Pole and the South Pole, but what else do you know about it? Here are some lesser-known facts - not to mention a few myths - about the equator.

The equator is just under 25,000 miles long. Because the Earth bulges at the centre, the equator is the longest of our planet's five main circles of latitude, each one based on the relationship between the Earth's axis of rotation and the Earth's orbit around the sun.

Astronomers have also identified an imaginary circle in the heavens, obtained when the Earth's equator is projected into the night sky. This is known as the celestial equator.

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The equator itself crosses the land or territorial waters of 14 countries. If you live on the equator you will experience the quickest rates of sunrise and sunset in the world, taking a matter of minutes.

These places also have a constant twelve hours of day and night throughout the year, while north or south of the equator day length increasingly varies with the seasons. In its seasonal movement through the sky, the Sun itself passes directly over the equator only twice each year, on the March and September equinoxes.

It is mistakenly believed that the weather on the equator stays the same. While tropical areas along the equator can experience wet and dry seasons, other regions may well be wet for much of the year. While temperatures at the equator are very high, there is one single point on the equator where you'll find snow. The highest point on the equator is 4,690m, on the south slopes of Volcán Cayambe in Ecuador so in theory you could go skiing on the equator.

In what might seem to be a contradictory pair of facts, the parts of the Earth that lie on the equator mark both the area with the world's greatest concentration of natural biodiversity and also human poverty. It is also the case that almost half the world's rainforests are concentrated on the equator in just three countries; Brazil, Congo and Indonesia.

It has been said that water spirals down plug holes in different directions depending on which hemisphere you are in. This is a myth, based on the effects of Coriolis, which refers to when the rotating earth causes the winds to deflect to the right in the northern hemisphere and the left south of the equator. The effect Coriolis has on water going down sinks is minimal. The truth is that water tends to flow down the plug-hole in the direction it is introduced into a sink!

A common belief is that that the moon always appears to flip upside down once you cross the equator. While this is not exactly a myth, it is not generally the case. If you want to see the moon turn upside down, you just have to watch long enough during a day, and you will generally see an exact upside down for a short while. Simply put, the moon can appear to flip upside down, but not very often and certainly not only at the equator.

There exists a seafaring tradition that all sailors who navigate across the equator during a sea voyage must join rituals initiating them into what is known as "The Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep". Those who have never done it are referred to as "pollywogs" and are required to undertake various initiation rituals performed by those members of the crew who have made the journey before in order to pay respect to King Neptune of the Deep. Upon completion of the initiation ceremony, the "pollywogs" are then known as "trustworthy Shellbacks".

Adapted from: <https://eden.uktv.co.uk/nature/earth/article/equator-facts/>

Comprobar respuesta **Mostrar retroalimentación**

The Equator Facts

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Centre of the Earth

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Astrologers have also identified an imaginary circle in the heavens, obtained when the Earth's equator is projected into the night sky. This is known as the celestial equator.

Night, Day and Seasons

The equator itself crosses the land or territorial waters of 14 countries. If you live on the equator you will experience the quickest rates of sunrise and sunset in the world, taking a matter of minutes.

These places also have a constant twelve hours of day and night throughout the year, while north or south of the equator day length increasingly varies with the seasons.

In its seasonal movement through the sky, the Sun itself passes directly over the equator only twice each year, on the March and September equinoxes.

A misconception

It is mistakenly believed that the weather on the equator stays the same. While tropical areas along the equator can experience wet and dry seasons, other regions may well be wet for much of the year. While temperatures at the equator are very high, there is one single point on the equator where you'll find snow. The highest point on the equator is 4,690m, on the south slopes of Volcán Cayambe in Ecuador so in theory you could go skiing on the equator.

Species and ecosystem

In what might seem to be a contradictory pair of facts, the parts of the Earth that lie on the equator mark both the area with the world's greatest concentration of natural biodiversity and also human poverty. It is also the case that almost half the world's rainforests are concentrated on the equator in just three countries; Brazil, Congo and Indonesia.

False beliefs

It has been said that water spirals down plug holes in different directions depending on which hemisphere you are in. This is a myth, based on the effects of Coriolis, which refers to when the rotating earth causes the winds to deflect to the right in the northern hemisphere and the left south of the equator. The effect Coriolis has on water going down sinks is minimal. The truth is that water tends to flow down the plug-hole in the direction it is introduced into a sink!

Popular conviction

A common belief is that that the moon always appears to flip upside down once you cross the equator. While this is not exactly a myth, it is not generally the case. If you want to see the moon turn upside down, you just have to watch long enough during a day, and you will generally see an exact upside down for a short while. Simply put, the moon can appear to flip upside down, but not very often and certainly not only at the equator.

Crossing the Line

There exists a seafaring tradition that all sailors who navigate across the equator during a sea voyage must join rituals initiating them into what is known as "The Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep". Those who have never done it are referred to as "pollywogs" and are required to undertake various initiation rituals performed by those members of the crew who have made the journey before in order to pay respect to King Neptune of the Deep. Upon completion of the initiation ceremony, the "pollywogs" are then known as "trustworthy Shellbacks".

Adapted from: <https://eden.uktv.co.uk/nature/earth/article/equator-facts/>

Get Talking

Of the 13 countries that lie on the equator, seven are in Africa—the most of any continent—and South America is home to three of the nations. The remaining countries are island nations in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

The countries through which the equator runs are:

São Tomé and Príncipe

Gabon

Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Uganda

Kenya

Somalia

Maldives

Indonesia

Kiribati

Ecuador

Colombia

Brazil

11 of these countries are in direct contact with the equator. The landmasses of Maldives and Kiribati, however, do not touch the equator itself. Instead, the equator passes through water belonging to these islands.

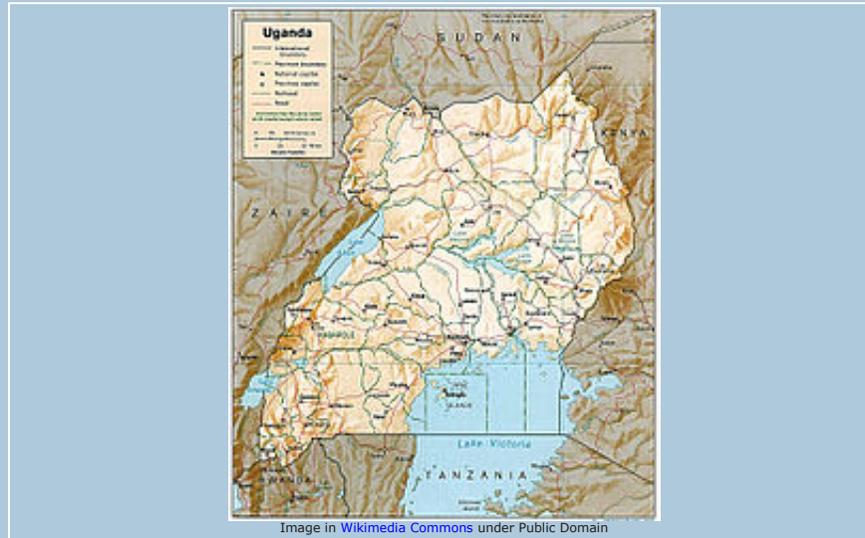
Source: <https://www.thoughtco.com/countries-that-lie-on-the-equator-1435319>

With a partner, discuss the following questions. Talk for about 5 minutes.

- What do you know about the countries above?
- In which of those countries is English an official language?
- Have you ever visited or do you know anybody who has visited any of those countries? What was the experience like?
- Would you like to travel to any of the countries listed above? Why/why not?
- If so, do you think there are any special requirements to travel there? (Visa, vaccines, etc.)
- How different do you think life might be there compared to life in your own country?

1.2. Do you speak Uglish?

Culture counts



Uganda, officially the Republic of Uganda, is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. Beginning in 1894, the area was ruled as a protectorate by the UK, who established administrative law across the territory. Uganda gained independence from the UK on 9 October 1962.

In Uganda, as in many African countries, English was introduced in government and public life by way of missionary work and the educational system. During the first decades of the twentieth century, Swahili gained influence as it was not only used in the army and the police but was also taught in schools. The Ganda viewed the introduction of Swahili as a threat to their political power and partly through their influence, so English remained the only official language at that time.

Upon Uganda's independence, English was maintained as the official language, as it was already rooted deeply in administration, media and education. Also, Uganda's ethnolinguistic diversity made it difficult to choose another language as the official language of the country.

Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Uganda

How much do you know about Uganda? Watch this video to find out.

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/e0lhCkRhv1Q>

Video by Displore on YouTube

Do it yourself

Read the following text and say if the statements below are True or False. Justify your answers with words from the text.

Do you speak Uglish? How English has evolved in Uganda

Please don't dirten my shirt with your muddy hands.

Stop cowardising and go and see that girl. Don't just beep her again, bench her.

Typos? No, we're speaking Uglish (pronounced you-glish), a Ugandan form of English influenced by Luganda and other local dialects, which has produced hundreds of words with their own unique meanings.

Some will be immediately obvious to English speakers: dirten, meaning to make dirty; cowardising, to behave like a coward.

Others offer small insights into youth culture: beep – meaning to ring someone but to hang up quickly before the person answers. Benching – meaning to drop by on someone you may have a romantic interest in, having evolved from university slang.

Now, Bernard Sabiti, a Ugandan cultural commentator has recorded these colloquialisms in a new book which attempts to unlock what he calls "one of the funniest and strangest English varieties in the world".

Working as a consultant for international NGOs, Sabiti kept being asked "what kind of English do Ugandans speak?" He felt it was time to "dig deeper and sum-up with something standardised to explain the strange way of speaking."

The result? A definitive guide to Uglish, from its evolutions to a glossary of hundreds of words.

Sabiti says the rise of Uglish directly correlates with a fall in the standards in education. People also read less and spend less time directly interacting with native English speakers, he adds.

Though not exclusive to the younger generation, the majority of words chronicled in his book are influenced by youth culture. What role has the internet played in this? Is social media to blame for a drop in standards?

There is a specific Uglish Facebook page: "the home of all those who appreciate Ugandans' efforts at speaking the English language, or those who simply get amused by the absurd attempts". But for Sibiliti it's more broadly about popular culture, spread by the internet.

He also credits local musicians for introducing a number of words into the lexicon. For example "wolokoss", meaning loose talk, or "mazongoto" meaning a big bed, are both lyrics from popular songs.

A piece about Sabiti's book was posted on the Daily Monitor's Facebook page, sparking healthy debate amongst Ugandans. Facebook user Fz Wagaba agreed that the problem with was the education system, but also put it down to the "copying of accents and foreign cultures".

Moses Mwebaze said: "This shouldn't become a big deal, societies world over create slangs out of English for better understanding". He added that using slang in real-life conversations shouldn't be a problem, as long as it didn't creep into official communications.

Luke Sserugo said he was in "deep giggles" after reading the article and added that English would always be spoken according to the particular vernacular in each society as "that's how the human brain was engineered."

A whole chapter of the book is dedicated to signs showing the misuse of English, in what could be perfect Buzzfeed fodder. Mishaps like these can be amusing but it poses a more serious question: should Ugandans be proud of a language that combines local with global? Or does a perceived slip in standards have broader implications?

Sabiti says that whilst Uglish has created new ways of expressing local concepts, a globalised world means that people should be able to communicate in standard English. "It is important to be understood the same way in Kampala, New York or London," he says.

But this is not a linguistic phenomena unique to Uganda. "It happens every time a language is introduced into a new local context. Local people have a way of speaking it so it makes sense to them", says Sabiti

There is "Singlish" a Singaporean English that borrows words from Chinese, Malay and Tamil, and which is very much ingrained in Singaporean identity, despite various government drives to encourage citizens to "speak good English".

Namlish, spoken in Namibia, which according to The Namibian Sun only has one rule: no grammar. Mumbai, home to 21 million people, has its own version of Hindi called Bambahiya, which incorporates sayings and pronunciations from Marathi, Hindi and English.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/22/-sp-how-english-language-evolved-uganda-uglish>

1. Hundreds of Uglish words have their origin in the mixture of youth culture and English slang.

Verdadero Falso

Falso

They have their origin in local dialects, and some of them reflect youth culture in Uganda.

2. The increase in the use of Uglish is directly related to a decline in learning goals.

Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

The rise of Uglish directly correlates with a fall in the standards in education.

3. It seems social media have had an important impact on the development of Uglish.

Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

It's more broadly about popular culture, spread by the internet.

4. Sabiti's book has started constructive discussion in Uganda.

Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

The book has sparked healthy debate amongst Ugandans.

5. Though Uglish deviates from Standard English, it is important to keep in mind that the globalization of English is necessary.

- Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

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6. Uglish is a unique example of the mixture of local language with standard English.

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Do it yourself

Watch the video and complete the gaps with one word.

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/Jd4PvInk1yo>

Video by CGTN Africa on YouTube

Many of the pupils in the classroom will grow to another language, Uglish, a variant of the English language with hundreds of words that a unique meaning.

Some of the examples given in the video are:

- Benching a girl, which means to try to her .
- somebody, which means that parts of your belongings are being taken.

Local dialects and songs have influenced the in the use of English, this has happened with tabloids and yellow press too.

While English remains the official language in Uganda, a growing number of people still prefer to speak Uglish.

In a society everyone would want to identify themselves, to have a self-identity, which is what Ugandans are doing. The use of Uglish has root in Uganda, and it is now an means of communication.

Some Uglish phrases are no longer considered bad English, the reason being that they have stayed with them for a long time and are now part of Ugandans. Uglish, to many, is English in its sense, but concerns on whether it will be accepted for use.

Enviar

Many of the pupils in the classroom will grow to adopt another language, Uglish, a variant of the English language with hundreds of words that bear a unique meaning.

Some of the examples given in the video are:

- Benching a girl, which means to try to win her over.
- Detoothing somebody, which means that parts of your belongings are being taken.

Local dialects and songs have influenced the trend in the use of English, this has happened with tabloids and yellow press too.

While English remains the official language in Uganda, a growing number of people still prefer to unconventionally speak Uglish.

In a society everyone would want to identify themselves, to have a self-identity, which is what Ugandans are doing. The use of Uglish has gained root in Uganda, and it is now an acceptable means of communication.

Some Uglish phrases are no longer considered bad English, the reason being that they have stayed with them for a long time and are now part of Ugandans. Uglish, to many, is English in its proper sense, but concerns remain on whether it will be accepted for formal use.

2. Solstice and Equinox

The Equinox (Vernal & Autumnal)

There are only two times of the year when the Earth's axis is tilted neither toward nor away from the sun, resulting in a "nearly" equal amount of daylight and darkness at all latitudes. These events are referred to as Equinoxes. The days become a little longer at the higher latitudes (those at a distance from the equator) because it takes the sun longer to rise and set.

The Solstices (Summer & Winter)

The summer solstice occurs at the moment the earth's tilt toward from the sun is at a maximum. The summer solstice occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer, which is located at 23.5° latitude North, and runs through Mexico, the Bahamas, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, India, and southern China. For every place north of the Tropic of Cancer, the sun is at its highest point in the sky and this is the longest day of the year.

The winter solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn, which is located at 23.5° south of the equator and runs through Australia, Chile, southern Brazil, and northern South Africa.

Source: <https://www.weather.gov/cle/Seasons>

Do it yourself

Read the following text, then match the sites with the statements. There is one extra statement you do not need to use.

5 Ancient sites aligned with the solstice and equinox. How our ancestors tracked the seasons.



Image in Wikimedia Commons under CC license

Our ancestors lived amidst nature more than most of us do today. They observed the universe, marveling in its rhythms. They used the Sun and the Moon as a sort of calendar, tracking the Sun's path across the sky. Here are some examples of the ancient sites and monuments that aligned with the solstice and equinox.

Our ancestors built the first observatories to track the sun's progress.

1. MACHU PICCHU

Machu Picchu is the transcendent City of the Incas. This archaeological site is perched atop a mountain overlooking the Urubamba Valley in Peru.

There is a giant stone at the top of this sacred mountain called Intihuatana, which means "the place when the sun gets tied." Amazingly, the stone is perfectly positioned so each corner sits at the four cardinal points (north, south, east and west). Therefore, the stone is a precise indicator of the date of the two equinoxes; it's a solar clock.

2. CHICHEN ITZA

At what is now Chichen Itza ("CHEE-chen-EET-sa"), Mexico, Mayans built a huge pyramid around the year A.D. 1000. The play of the Sun's light on it signals the beginning of the seasons.

On the spring equinox, for example, the light pattern looks like a snake. Mayans called this day "the return of the Sun serpent."

On the spring equinox, for example, the light pattern looks like a snake. Mayans called this day the return of the Sun Serpent.

3. STONEHENGE

Every year on the summer solstice, thousands of people travel to Wiltshire, England to Stonehenge, a place with huge stones that were arranged in a circle around 3000 B.C. The huge monument marks the relation between the Sun and the seasons.

On the dawning of the summer solstice, the sun rises directly above the Heel Stone—a mysterious prehistoric monument whose origins, depending on interpretation, were as an ancient burial ground, an astrological observatory, even a supernatural phenomenon.

4. CHACO CANYON

In today's Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, the Ancestral Puebloan people, who were expert sky watchers, carved spiral designs into rock to track the seasons and record the passage of time.

In this canyon is a petroglyph called the Sun Dagger because of the way the Sun's wedge-shape beams strike it in midday during the summer and winter solstices.

5. NEWGRANGE

Around 3200 B.C., ancient people in Ireland built a huge mound of dirt and surrounded it with stones. Today, the knoll is called Newgrange.

For five days over the winter solstice period, a beam of sunlight illuminates a small room inside the mound for 17 minutes at dawn. The room holds only twenty people at a time.

Every year, thousands enter a lottery in hope of being one of the hundred people allowed to enter.

Source: <https://www.almanac.com/content/five-ancient-sites-aligned-solstice-and-equinox>

a. There is no consensus on the origin of this site.	<input type="text"/>
b. This site was originally a cemetery.	<input type="text"/>
c. The stone at this site works like an exact compass	<input type="text"/>
d. Only small groups of people can visit this small hill	<input type="text"/>
e. In this site rays of sunlight illuminate prehistoric stone carving	<input type="text"/>
f. The light of the Sun over this monument resembles an animal during a specific equinox	<input type="text"/>

Comprobar respuesta **Mostrar retroalimentación**

a. There is no consensus on the origin of this site	Stonehenge
b. This site was originally a cemetery	Extra statement
c. The stone at this site works like an exact compass	Machu Picchu
d. Only small groups of people can visit this small hill	Newgrange
e. In this site rays of sunlight illuminate prehistoric stone carving	Chaco Canyon
f. The light of the Sun over this monument resembles an animal during a specific equinox	Chichen Itza

Culture counts





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What do you know about Stonehenge? Take [this quiz](#) to test yourself.

To learn more about why Stonehenge was built you can visit [this site](#).

You can take a virtual tour of Stonehenge [here](#).

Do it yourself

Watch the video about Stonehenge and for each statement choose A, B, or C.

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/Fx-KrvuiafE>

Video by Vox on [YouTube](#)

1. It took a thousand years...

- a. to build Stonehenge
- b. to arrive at the final version of Stonehenge
- c. to make variations to Stonehenge

Incorrecto

Stonehenge was built and modified several times over the course of a thousand year.

Incorrecto

Solution

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta
3. Incorrecto

2. Standing Trilithons at Stonehenge...

- a. are 30 meters tall
- b. were propped in the 1950's
- c. used to be only two before the 1950's

Incorrecto

Incorrecto

There is only three of them standing today, but it would have been just two, except they propped one back up in the 1950's.

Solution

1. Incorrecto
2. Incorrecto
3. Opción correcta

3. Bluestones...

- a. were carried all the way to Stonehenge by people
- b. weigh as much as a herd of hippopotamus
- c. were geologically traced to more than 200 km away from the site

Incorrecto

Incorrecto

The geological source for Bluestones is over 200 km away.

Solution

1. Incorrecto
2. Incorrecto
3. Opción correcta

4. Part of the data about the chronology of Stonehenge...

- a. comes from some organic material found at the site
- b. was found in written records that Neolithic people left
- c. was provided by prehistoric archaeologists

It comes from antlers found at Stonehenge. These antlers are organic material that can be radiocarbon dated

Incorrecto

Incorrecto

Solution

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto
3. Incorrecto

5. Sarsen stones...

- a. are heavier than steel
- b. had to be moved from a local site
- c. were shaped uniformly with the help of stone instruments

Incorrecto

Incorrecto

These stones were shaped into fairly uniform blocks using stone tools.

Solution

1. Incorrecto
2. Incorrecto
3. Opción correcta

6. Stonehenge...

- a. was designed following some sort of astronomical studies
- b. was built for burial purposes
- c. shows a perfect alignment with the summer solstice

It's design involved an early form of astronomy.

Incorrecto

Incorrecto

Solution

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto
3. Incorrecto

7. The people at Stonehenge...

- a. were aware of how the earth moves and what that implied
- b. appreciated the importance of the winter solstice, judging by how Stonehenge was designed
- c. pilgrimaged to other monuments in order to slaughter pigs

Incorrecto

There are reasons to think that the winter solstice was particularly important to the people at Stonehenge. The winter solstice sunset is on the same axis as the summer solstice sunrise.

Incorrecto

Solution

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta
3. Incorrecto

2.1. Are you a flat earther?

FOCUS ON



Modern flat Earth societies are organizations that promote the belief that the Earth is flat while disputing the Earth's sphericity. Such groups date from the middle of the 20th century; some adherents are serious and some are not. Those who are serious are often motivated by religion, pseudoscience or conspiracy theories.

Through the use of social media, flat Earth theories have been increasingly espoused by individuals unaffiliated with larger groups.

Members of the Flat Earth Society claim to believe the Earth is flat. Walking around on the planet's surface, it looks and feels flat, so they deem all evidence to the contrary, such as satellite photos of Earth as a sphere, to be fabrications of a "round Earth conspiracy" orchestrated by NASA and other government agencies.

The belief that the Earth is flat has been described as the ultimate conspiracy theory. According to the Flat Earth Society's leadership, its ranks have grown by 200 people (mostly Americans and Britons) per year since 2009.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_flat_Earth_societies

<https://www.livescience.com/24310-flat-earth-belief.html>

Get Thinking

Watch the following interview with some flat earthers. Do you think they have strong arguments to support their views?

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/06bvdFK3vVU>

Video by National Geographic on YouTube

Get organized

Responding to counterarguments in writing

Almost anything you can argue or claim in a persuasive paper can be refuted – and that is a good thing when you are writing an argument. Opposing points of view exist in every good debate, and it's important to anticipate possible objections to your arguments and to discuss them in your paper.

You do not need to attempt to do all of these things as a way to respond; instead, choose the response strategy that makes the most sense to you, for the counterargument that you have.

- If you agree with some of the counterargument perspectives, you can concede some of their points: "I do agree that", "Some of the points made by ___ are valid.....". You could then challenge the importance/usefulness of those points: "However, this information does not apply to our topic because...".
- If the counterargument perspective is one that contains different evidence than you have in your own argument, you can explain why a reader should not accept the evidence that the counter arguer presents.
- If the counterargument perspective is one that contains a different interpretation of evidence than you have in your own argument, you can explain why a reader should not accept the interpretation of the evidence that your opponent (counter arguer) presents.
- If the counterargument is an acknowledgement of evidence that threatens to weaken your argument, you must explain why and how that evidence does not, in fact invalidate your claim.

It is important to use transitional phrases in your paper to alert readers when you're about to present a counterargument. It's usually best to put this phrase at the beginning of a paragraph such as:

- Researchers have challenged these claims with...
- Critics argue that this view...
- Some readers may point to...
- A perspective that challenges the idea that . . .
- Transitional phrases will again be useful to highlight your shift from counterargument to response:
- Indeed, some of those points are valid. However, . . .
- While I agree that . . . , it is more important to consider . . .
- These are all compelling points. Still, other information suggests that . . .
- While I understand . . . , I cannot accept the evidence because . . .

Source: <https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/csu-fyw-rhetoric/chapter/questions-for-thinking-about-counterarguments/>

Get writing

Taking into account the opinion of the flat earthers in the video above, as well as the content of this online newspaper [article](#), write an opinion article expressing your views on whether we should believe the Earth is round or not. Use some of the counterarguments in the previous section. Write approximately 300 words.

3. Adverbs and their position in the sentence

Language Mechanics

Adverbs and adverb phrases: position

We can put adverbs and adverb phrases at the front, in the middle or at the end of a clause.

- The **front position** of the clause is the first item in the clause:

"Suddenly I felt afraid."

"Yesterday detectives arrested a man and a woman in connection with the murder."

- The **end position** of the clause is the last item in the clause:

"Why do you always have to eat so fast?"

- The **mid position** is between the subject and the main verb:

"Apples always taste best when you pick them straight off the tree."

- Where there is more than one verb, mid position means after the first auxiliary verb or after a modal verb:

"The government has occasionally been forced to change its mind." (after the first auxiliary verb)

"You can definitely never predict what will happen." (after a modal verb)

"We mightn't ever have met." (after the modal verb and before the auxiliary verb)

- In **questions**, mid position is between the subject and the main verb:

"Do you ever think about living there?"

- Adverbs usually come after the **main verb be**, except in emphatic clauses:

"She's always late for everything."

- When be is emphasised, the adverb comes before the verb:

"Why should I have gone to see Madonna? I never was a fan of hers." (emphatic)

Type of adverb	Position	Example
Manner	They usually go in end position. They sometimes go in mid position if the adverb is not the most important part of the clause or if the object is very long.	She ate quickly. She quickly ate her dinner and ran out.
Place	They usually go in end position. They sometimes go in front position, especially in writing.	Can you come over here? We'll be at that table there. Here she sat. Outside, there was a small pond.
Time	They usually go in end position. They sometimes go in front position especially if we want to emphasise the adverb.	I'm flying to Edinburgh tomorrow. Today, I'm going to clean the house.
Duration	They usually go in end position.	I'm not staying long.
Frequency	They usually go in mid position. They sometimes go in front position. They can also go in end position. Always, ever and never do not usually go in front position.	We often have friends to stay. I usually get up late on weekends. I could never swim fast. Sometimes she wore a woollen hat. We don't see them very often. Not: Never I could swim fast.

Degree	Really, very, quite usually go in mid position. A lot and a bit usually go in end position.	I really like those pink flowers. We go to Ireland a lot. I'd just like to change things a bit.
Certainty Obligation	or Some go in mid position: probably, possibly, certainly. Others go in front position: maybe, perhaps or in end positions after a comma.	It'll probably rain. Maybe Nick will know the answer. Can I get you a drink, or something to eat, perhaps?
Viewpoint	They usually go outside the clause, often at the beginning. They can sometimes go in mid position, especially in formal writing.	Personally, I'd rather not go out. This must, frankly, be the craziest idea anyone has ever had.
Evaluative	They usually go outside the clause, often at the beginning. They can sometimes go in mid position. In informal speaking they can go in end position.	Unfortunately, I forgot my swimming costume so I had to sit on the side and watch. We have stupidly forgotten the tickets. They missed the bus, apparently.

Source: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/es/gramatica/gramatica-britanica/adverbs-and-adverb-phrases-position>

FOCUS ON

Now practice using adverbs in the right position:

[Activity 1](#)

[Activity 2](#)

[Activity 3](#)

[Activity 4](#)

4. Showing interest through intonation

Properly Speaking

You can show interest in a conversation by using rising intonation in some words or expressions:

- Oh!
- Oh yeah?
- Really?
- Oh really?
- Is that right?

You can also show interest by emphasizing other particles in the sentence. Watch the following video to find out:

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/ffgLvaYpDzM>

Video by English with Kim on YouTube

FOCUS ON

Listen to the following audio and pay attention to how the speaker shows interest by using rising intonation in question tags as well as other expressions.



Source of audio: https://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1210_how_to_converse/page15.shtml

Now use expressions, question tags or questions in order to show interest about the following facts about the Earth. Don't forget to use rising intonation.

1. The Earth's rotation is gradually slowing.
2. The Earth was once believed to be the center of the universe.
3. The Earth has a powerful magnetic field.
4. There is only one natural satellite of the planet Earth.
5. The Earth is the only planet not named after a god.
6. The Earth is the densest planet in the Solar System.

Source: <https://space-facts.com/earth/>

Get Talking

With a partner, discuss the facts about the Earth you have read in the previous section. Why do you think they might be/once were true? Use vocabulary you have learned throughout this lesson.

Talk for about 5 minutes.



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5. Bite size



Bitesize

Image by Anonymous in [Openclipart](#). [Share](#)

We established a number of expected results at the beginning of the lesson. Click [here](#) and download the outcomes list. In the blank column, fill in your trouble areas or areas you need to work on. Pay special attention to the following:

- Review vocabulary related to the Earth, the Sun, and the Moon you have learned throughout the lesson.
- In pronunciation, make sure you know how to use rising intonation to show interest.
- Perfect the use of adverbs in the right position.
- Check that you know how to use counterarguments in writing.

Keep these pages as a reminder of the areas you need to polish up, they will come in very handy once you start preparing for your exam.

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/educacion/permanente/materiales/index.php?aviso#space>



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