

## IELTS Reading Passage - Talking point Reading Answers

### Talking point

**A.** Knowing a second language energises children's cleverness and makes their career opportunities more optimistic. But the truth is, in New Zealand, speakers of two or more languages are in the minority, like in many other English-speaking countries. 84% of New Zealanders speak only one language. This goes to a small number who claim to talk two or more languages - a small percentage of whom were born in New Zealand.

**B.** No matter how proud people are of their cultural language, to speak any language other than English makes a difference here. That's why 80-year-old Tiffany Dvorak no longer desires to speak her mother language, German, and 80-year-old Ani Powell is ashamed when people comment on the fact that she is able to speak Maori \*. As Joanne Powell, Ani's mother points out: 'In Europe, it's not uncommon for kids to be bilingual. There are some people in New Zealand who think that if you speak a different language to your kids, you are not allowing them to become members of the community.'

**C.** But in reality, the general agreement among professionals is that knowing a second language is useful for children. Specialists accept that bilinguals - people who speak two languages - have a clear understanding benefit over their monolingual schoolmates. This relies on how much of each language they can speak, not on which language is used, so it doesn't matter whether they are discovering Maori or German or Chinese, or any other language.

**D.** Cathie Elder, a professor of Language Teaching and Learning at Auckland University, says, 'A lot of analyses have shown that children who speak more than one language sometimes learn one language more slowly, but in the end, they do as well as their monolingual

schoolmates, and usually better, in other subjects. The view is that there is an improvement in general brightness from the struggle of discovering another language.'

E. Bilinguals also show greater creativity and problem-solving capability, and they learn further languages more efficiently.' So with all of the advantages, why do we not show more confidence in learning other languages? Parents and teachers involved in bilingual education say stress from friends at school, general perspectives of other languages in English-speaking countries, and issues in the school system are to blame.

## Talking Point IELTS Reading Questions

### Questions 1-5

*Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A–G, below.*

*Write the correct letter, A-G, as your answer to each question.*

1. In New Zealand, speakers of two or more languages are in the minority, like in
2. Eighty four percent of New Zealanders
3. Tiffany Dvorak no longer desires
4. The general agreement among professionals is that knowing
5. Bilinguals also show greater creativity and problem-solving capability, and
  - A. they learn further languages more efficiently.
  - B. many other English-speaking countries
  - C. to speak her mother language
  - D. in the school system are to blame

- E. a second language is useful for children
- F. speak only one language
- G. discovering another language