

## 2. Schulaufgabe Englisch – Jahrgangsstufe 8 Gymnasium

### Lösungsvorschlag:

#### A) Reading Comprehension: Text „Languages in the US“

##### Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What were two major reasons for Europeans to sail to America?

***The two major reasons for European settlers to sail to America were to escape poverty or wars in the home countries. The Irish mostly fled poverty, many Germans came because of wars.***

2. How did the settlers find names for their new settlements?

***Some settlers named their new settlements and towns simply the same as their hometowns in Europe like Cambridge or Hamburg. Other settlers made new versions of the names of their hometowns like New Orleans or Florida.***

3. Can you imagine why the settlers called America the „New World“?  
(Write about 50 words.)

***I think the settlers called America the „New World“ for more than one reason. First I think that it was called „New World“ because when Columbus discovered America, it was in fact a new continent for the Europeans. Second of all, America was a strange place for the settlers in respect of animals, plants and the Native Indians. I also think that the name „New „World“ is also connected with the hope for a better life.***

##### Are the sentences right or wrong? Tick „Right“ or „Wrong“. If the sentence is wrong, correct it in the lines below.

1. The settlers who arrived in America found a land that was completely unpopulated.

Right

Wrong

***The land was already populated by the Indians***

2. Most settlers that came to America were English people.

Right

Wrong

3. Settlers from different origins mixed together at once after they had arrived in America.

Right

Wrong

***The settlers only sometimes mixed together. They usually stayed with the people they came with***

4. Some time after their arrival, the settlers agreed on English as their common language although most immigrants had difficulties learning English.

Right

Wrong

***The children of the first settlers learned English rather fast so the soon spoke as good as the children of English settlers.***

5. The United States still don't have an official legal language.

Right

Wrong

**Decide whether the following sentences are „True“ (T), „False“ (F) or „Not in the text“ (N) . Tick (✓) the correct box.**

		T	F	N
1.	Spanish is the most important language in the US after English.	X		
2.	In the US there are more people speaking Spanish than in Spain.		X	
3.	There are more Spanish speaking people in Colombia than in Argentina.			X
4.	Not many German settlers came to the US.		X	
5.	Languages like Polish or Italian die out in the US, because the people who speak them die, too.	X		

**Explain the sentence from the text in your own words:**

*„Although many new Latin American immigrants are less than fluent in English, nearly all second-generation Hispanic Americans speak English fluently, while only about half still speak Spanish.“*

***Many immigrants from Spanish speaking countries who immigrate new into the United States can't speak English very good. Therefore it is remarkable that nearly all of the children of those Hispanic Americans later speak English more fluent than their mother language Spanish.***

**B) Listening Comprehension: Text „Conversation between Michael and Steven“**

Michael: You know Steven, living in the United States of America really is something special.

Steven: Why makes you say that Michael?

Michael: Well, there are about 320 million people living in the USA and it's just so fascinating to know that we originally came from all over the world.

Steven: That really is special compared to other countries. I think the reason why we are a multi-cultural nation is because of the many immigrants that have come to the US from many countries in the past.

Michael: This is the reason why I think the United States is so special. When the settlers arrived here in the 17th century, they brought with them their languages and cultures that are still alive today.

Steven: I remember studying about the colonists at school. They came all over from Europe to find a better life for themselves. The journey by ship took a long time. When they arrived, they discovered a country that had plenty of land and wildlife.

Michael: The majority of these colonists were English but there were also Dutch, Germans, and people from many other European countries. That is the reason why our country provides a home for so many different cultures.

Steven: The United States really have a very diverse population. Today German Americans are the largest ethnic group with more than 50 million, followed by Irish Americans with 37 million, Mexican Americans with 31 million and English Americans with 28 million.

Michael: With all these different ethnic groups, it's amazing that we mainly speak American English in this country.

Steven: True but Spanish speaking US citizens are the fastest growing language group in the United States. Spanish is spoken by 12% of the population at home and is the second most common language and the second language that is most widely taught in schools.

Michael: That is very interesting. How do you know all of this Steven? I mean, where did you get your facts from?

Steven: I remember reading the 2011 American Community Survey, which is the main source of language data that has been collected from the US population. People who speak a language other than English and cannot speak English "very well" can be helped with translation services, education, or assistance from government services.

Michael: That's brilliant that the Government can help people learn English. You know Steven, some Americans want to make English the country's official language.

Steven: I think that would be a good idea. Historically, the United States has been a mostly English speaking nation since it has been created. Why not make it the official language?

Steven: There are 31 U.S. States that have English as their official language and 19 States without any official language.

Steven: English is the only language used in education, business, and government so it would make sense. We'll see what the future brings.

**Decide whether the following sentences are „True“ (T), „False“ (F) or „Not in the text“ (N) . Tick (✓) the correct box.**

		T	F	N
1	Many languages and cultures brought by the early settlers still exist in the USA today.	X		
2	The journey from Europe to the USA could easily take a year.			X
3	The first settlers were mostly Germans.		X	
4	More than 50 million Americans today have German origins.	X		
5	Today more people in the USA have Mexican than English origins.	X		
6	Michael thinks that it is amazing that only English is spoken in the United States today.		X	

7	More and more people in modern USA speak Spanish.	X		
8	Spanish is taught as a second language in all schools in the USA.			X
9	People who come to America today have to learn English all by themselves.		X	
10	There are already plans by the government to make English the official language of the USA.			X

C) Grammar: Passiv Voice / Adjectives and adverbs

**Form correct passive sentences (Mind the tense of the verbs!):**

1. the settlers / to help / the Indians / after / they / to arrive / in America / in the early days

***The settlers were helped by the Indians after they had arrived in America in the early days.***

2. many different languages / to speak / the people / in the USA / today

***Many different languages are spoken by the people in the USA today.***

3. up to now / English / not to introduce / as official language / but / at the moment / it / to discuss / to change that

***Up to now English hasn't been introduced as official language but at the moment it is being discussed to change that.***

4. People / to help / the government / to learn / English

***People are helped by the government to learn English.***



5. Everyone / to come / to America / to offer / translation services / and other assistance / the government

***Everyone who comes to America is offered translation services and other assistance by the government.***

**Adjective or Adverb? Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the words in brackets:**

At the time when the first Irish settlers came to America, Ireland was a poor (poor) country. Many families sold all they owned to pay for the long (long) journey across the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately (unfortunate) many settlers died during the journey. Those who were lucky to have finally (final) reached the New World had high (high) hopes to find a better life and a bright (bright) future. You can hardly (hard) believe that the Indians helped the newly (new) arrived settlers at first, considering the brutal (brutal) wars they should desperately (desperate) have to fight against the White Man later to defend their land.

**D) Guided Writing**

**You have recently read an article in an American newspaper about the discussion whether English should become the only official language of the United States. Now give your opinion about the issue. Write about 80 to 100 words.**

***I don't think it is necessary to make English the official language of the USA at the moment. Up to now, the people living in the United States have used English as dominant language anyway, so it already is the (in)official language. If America claims to be the land of freedom the people should have the freedom to use the language they want to. On the other hand, an official language might become necessary if a group of immigrants, for example the Hispanic Americans, gets so dominant, that their language competes with English. In order to avoid confusions in that case, the USA might have to decide on one official language.***

**Good Luck!**