

## Speaking the Language

**Directions** How difficult do you think it would be to travel among people who do not speak your language? Read the passage below about such situations and complete the activities that follow.

Whenever you travel, there are certain things you need to take care of ahead of time. You need to pack, for instance, and arrange to have your mail brought in while you are gone.

When you visit another country, there are even more details to attend to. For starters, you need to change your money to the local currency. You need to have a valid passport, and in some cases, you also need a document called a visa that gives you the right to enter the country. Many travelers, however, overlook one important step in getting ready to visit a foreign country: learning the language.

Of course, learning to speak a language fluently takes years of study. For a trip that will last only a week or two, that does not make much sense. What you can do, with a little effort, is learn a few important phrases needed to communicate with the people you meet.

For example, instead of just hoping that people you run into will speak English, you can learn how to ask them, “Do you speak English?” You can also learn how to ask directions, as in “Where is the railroad station?” or “What street is this?” Of course, do not overlook the all-important question, “Where is the bathroom?”

- Below are listed nine of the ten most popular tourist destinations in the world. (The United States is the tenth.) Consult library or Internet resources to find out the main language (or languages) spoken in each of these countries. List the answers on the lines provided.

Austria \_\_\_\_\_

Canada \_\_\_\_\_

China \_\_\_\_\_

France \_\_\_\_\_

Germany \_\_\_\_\_

Italy \_\_\_\_\_

Mexico \_\_\_\_\_

Spain \_\_\_\_\_

United Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHAPTER 6 Communication with Others (Continued)**

**Focus on *Travel***

2. Choose one of the languages you identified in question 1 (choose one you do not speak). Consult a foreign-language dictionary or phrasebook to learn how to say the words and phrases below in that language. Write the answers on the lines provided. For each phrase, write both the words of the translation and a syllable-by-syllable guide to pronunciation. (It is not much help to spell a phrase in a foreign language if you can not pronounce it correctly!) Then teach your new language skills to the class.

Yes

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No

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Please

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Thank you.

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Where is the bathroom?

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How much does this cost?

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Do you speak English?

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I need a doctor.

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Can you help me?

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