English No Longer the World Language?

*Fill in the blanks with the words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need!*

Many children in school ________________ all over America are taking ________________ language courses in Chinese. The concept is easy. On one day they learn everything in English and the next they ________________ to Chinese.

It is an ________________ to learn languages when you are young because small children ________________ up the language and use it in ________________ situations. Chinese has become so ________________ that some schools even want to ________________ parents Chinese courses.

Because of China’s growing economy and ________________, Chinese has become a language many people want to learn. In the United States about 50,000 students from kindergarten to eighth ________________ are taking Chinese, ________________ to only 5,000 in 2004. About 100 million people worldwide are studying Chinese as a second language.

The Chinese ________________ has started a number of Confucius Institutes to ________________ the Chinese language and the country’s culture. Currently there are such institutes in over 60 countries. 2,000 students have ________________ the program in the last two years.

In the Philippines people think that learning Chinese will allow them to get better ________________ in the future. As more and more Chinese travel to other countries as tourists or on ________________, people who can speak Chinese have an advantage over others.

In Panama one government official has even thought about making Chinese compulsory in ________________ schools, however it is so hard to get enough ________________ teachers to teach Chinese.

In the future Mandarin Chinese might not ________________ English as the world’s number one language but because China is ________________ further it will become an important language.
Key

English No Longer the World Language?

*Fill in the blanks with the words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need!*

Many children in school **classes** all over America are taking **additional** language courses in Chinese. The concept is easy. On one day they learn everything in English and the next they **change** to Chinese.

It is an **advantage** to learn languages when you are young because small children **soak** up the language and use it in **everyday** situations. Chinese has become so **popular** that even want to **offer** parents Chinese courses.

Because of China’s growing economy and **influence**, Chinese has become a language many people want to learn. In the United States about 50,000 students from kindergarten to eighth **grade** are taking Chinese, **compared** to only 5,000 in 2004. About 100 million people worldwide are studying Chinese as a second language.

The Chinese **government** has a started a number of Confucius Institutes to **spread** the Chinese language and the country’s culture. Currently there are such institutes in over 60 countries. 2,000 students have **attended** the program in the last two years.

In the Philippines people think that learning Chinese will allow them to get better **jobs** in the future. As more and more Chinese travel to other countries as tourists or on **business**, people who can speak Chinese have an advantage over others.

In Panama one government official has even thought about making Chinese compulsory in **public** schools, however it is so hard to get enough **qualified** teachers to teach Chinese.

In the future Mandarin Chinese might not **overtake** English as the world’s number one language but because China is **expanding** further it will become an important language.