

LINGUISTIC JUSTICE
COLLABORATIVE

How many world languages can you say hello in?

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**What does your name mean?
Has anyone mispronounced it?
Do you correct them?**

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What English varieties do you hear as "broken", "slang", or "improper"? Why?

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How can you share communicative responsibilities with someone who uses a different English variety?

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Critical Conversation Cards

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Are you comfortable asking an English language learner to repeat themselves until you're sure you understand them? Why or why not?

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Have you ever shortened someone's name to make it easier to pronounce? Why?

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What English varieties do you hear as "proper", "intelligent", or "articulate"? Why?

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How can you share communicative responsibilities with someone who is not a native English speaker?

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Conversation
Cards**

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What experiences (if any) have you had being a language minority? How does this influence your listening to language learners?

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Do you change how you speak in different places (e.g. at home, work, school)? How so?

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How do you make decisions about when to change how you speak in different places? How did you learn to make these decisions?

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When you hear a language variety different from your own, how do you react internally (your thoughts, physical reactions)? Externally?

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Cards**

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Do you focus more on a speaker's message, or on a speaker's delivery?
How do you know?

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When listening to a speaker is difficult because of language differences, how do you work harder as a listener?

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How is your language connected to your cultural identities?
Histories? Places?

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When you notice a "linguistic bias", how do you respond? How are linguistic biases changed?

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COLLABORATIVE

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What language choices do you make (e.g. informal vs. formal, word choice, cursing)? How do you make those choices?

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Chadwick Boseman pushed to play the character Black Panther with African language pronunciations. He said: "There's no way I would speak with a European accent. If I did that, I would be conveying a white supremacist idea of what being educated is and what being royal or presidential is (Guglielmo, 2020, par. 28-30). How is this statement connected to linguistic justice?

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Do you ever code switch (change how you speak between people or contexts)? Translanguage (use more than one language or variety in the same conversation)?

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What language(s) do you dream and think in?

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Conversation
Cards**

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COLLABORATIVE

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Have you ever been told you have an accent? What does that mean?

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Do people comment on your "accent"? Have you commented on other people's perceived accents?

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Have you ever faced assumptions or discrimination because of your language? Language variety?

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Are you familiar with Black Language (Black English, Ebonics, African American Vernacular English)? Where have you learned about or heard BL?

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How have Black Language sayings changed over generations? Can you think of "old" sayings that are expressed differently today?

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In what ways have you experienced the monetization or appropriation of Black Language? Did you recognize it at first?

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What are some of your favorite features of Black Language?

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What are some of your favorite sayings within Black Language? What memories do you have associated with those sayings?

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What is your earliest memory where you recognized you spoke differently than others? Share your story.

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Where does your language come from? What do you know about its history?

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Have you ever been corrected (or self corrected) while speaking? If so, how did it make you feel? Share examples.

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What does it mean to call English "standard English"? Is it standard? What does that mean for other languages and language varieties?

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