English around the world

Would you like to learn more about countries where the people speak English?
Here is some extra information for you.

" Howzit! I come from South Africa, a country on the southern coast of Africa. We have lots of mountains and a long, beautiful coastline. Lots of exotic animals live here, for example lions and giraffes.

There are eleven official languages in South Africa. English is one of them. Less than 10 per cent of the people speak it as their first language, but it's now the main language of the government.

In South African English, some things are different from British English: We often say 'ja' for 'yes', or we call the trainers on our feet 'trakkies' and say 'lekker' when we want to say that something is nice. When we want to have a party, we say 'Let's jam soon!' and a barbecue is called a 'braai'. "
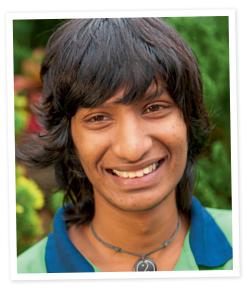

" Namasté! I'm from India, a country in South Asia where over 1.2 billion people live. It's famous for its food, its old culture and Bollywood films. The name Bollywood is a mix of the Indian city Bombay and Hollywood in the USA, where you can find all of the big American film studios. Most people in India are Hindus and believe in many different gods, for example Vishnu, Shiva, Devi and Ganesh.

We have lots of different languages in India, but most people speak Hindi. Both Hindi and English are our official languages. People use them in business and government.

When Indians speak English, some of them sound very much like British people; others speak with a dialect. Sometimes we use Hindi words in English sentences or mix English and Hindi words. People call this new language Hinglish (Hindu and English) and it's well-known in India. "I have hazaar things to do", for example, means "I have thousands of things to do." Or when you want to know the time, you can ask "Time kya hua hai?" "

coast [kəʊst] Küste ○ coastline ['kəʊstlaɪn] Küstenlinie ○ exotic [ɪɡ'zɒtɪk] exotisch ○ lion ['laɪən] Löwe ○ giraffe [dʒɪ'rɑːf] Giraffe ○ less than [les ðən] weniger als ○ per cent [pə'sent] Prozent ○ trainers ['treɪnəz] Turnschuhe ○ barbecue ['bɑːbɪkjuː] Grillparty ○ Asia ['eɪʒə] Asien ○ billion ['bɪliən] Milliarde ○ mix [mɪks] Mischung ○ god [ɡɒd] Gott ○ both … and [bəʊθ ænd] sowohl … als auch ○ business ['bɪznɪs] Geschäft; Handel ○ dialect ['daɪəlekt] Dialekt ○ well-known [wel'nəʊn] bekannt ○ thousands (of) ['θaʊzndz̩ əv] tausende (von)