

Lesson 4 Vox pops

My Name is Niamh. I've been living here in Brussels with my family for the past few years since my mother got a job here. School was very difficult at first because I had no French. I had trouble understanding the teachers and had to spend lots of time translating school books to do my homework. Although people at school were very friendly it was hard to make friends without French, but gradually I managed to learn French and now I've lots of friends at school. I'm glad my family came to live in Belgium. Now I speak French fluently and I love using it.

My name is Pdraig. I went on a camping holiday to Spain last year with my family I really enjoyed it. The weather was fantastic. The campsite was beside the beach and I went swimming there every day. But I was unlucky one day when a jellyfish stung me in the foot. I'll never forget it - the pain was terrible. My father had to bring me to the doctor. but I had trouble explaining what was wrong with me because we don't speak Spanish. In the end we managed to explain the situation to the doctor and I got the medicine I needed but if we had Spanish It would have been much easier to speak to the doctor.

My name is Zina. My family came over from Brazil a few years ago to live in Dublin. It was very hard at first because I didn't understand anything at school and I found it hard to make friends with the other children. At home, I couldn't understand much on television either. I'm very interested in music and I'd like to learn the piano. My mother managed to find me a music teacher. But once again I had difficulty understanding. My mother had to come with me to the piano classes to help me understand the teacher. However things are much better now. I have no problem understanding people in Ireland anymore. Having said that, I love the fact that I have my own native language from Brazil which we speak at home.

My name is Seamus. I live in the Gaeltacht in County Galway. We speak Irish at home and when I started school I hadn't much English. When I was younger I had a stammer and I had to get help from a speech therapist. Unfortunately there was no therapist in the area with Irish so the sessions were in English. My mother used to come to the sessions with me so that I could understand the therapist better. Even though it was quite tough because I could only speak Irish, I still love the fact that I speak my native language and English. I speak Irish to my family and friends and I love watching programmes for young people on TG4. But I have to say that Irish isn't very welcome in a lot of places.