

Input - Forums characteristics

- 1) Explore the forum and find more about the characteristics mentioned in the chart. Do not forget to mention where you can find them or the textual tips that helped you identify them. *You can access the forum by typing <https://www.quora.com/Why-is-English-the-one-and-only-international-language> in the address bar of your Internet browser.*

Forums Characteristics Guide	Answers & Evidences
Question (What is the question in this forum?)	<i>Why is English the one and only international language? It is at the top of the forum and it is in bold and in large size.</i>
Answers (How many answers are there in the forum?)	<i>There are 11 answers. This information comes below the question.</i>
Language (Is it formal or informal? Is it verbal or non-verbal?)	<i>It is formal and informal. The vast majority of participants add information to the discussion through verbal language while one participant adds information through non-verbal language, i.e. a video.</i>
Use of arguments (Do people use arguments or write only their opinions? Which arguments are used?)	<i>Many participants use arguments to get their ideas across. Some cite the British Empire as one of the reasons why English has become so popular around the world while others affirm that English has become an international language due to economic, social or military reasons. In answer 2, Andy Zehner says that English is as important as Latin, French or Arabic. In answer 3, Bhuvana Rameshwar mentions English as one of the UN official languages.</i>
Relevance (Does it add new information to the discussion? Is it relevant or is it a joke?)	<i>Although many participants seem to be repetitive, they always add new ideas to the discussion. Some of the pieces of information they add are related to: the British Empire, the comparison between English and other languages used around the world for specific purposes, the UN official languages, Global English/World English/Common English, the American predominance in world culture, economics, science, and military</i>

	<i>matters, Hollywood, programming languages, the American rock and roll, the flexibility English has as a language.</i>
References (Do participants make reference to materials, websites and authors where they found the information? Do they cite other works and write where to find them?)	<i>The vast majority of participants do not mention any kind of materials, websites or authors. However, two participants added website links related to the topic (a piece of news and a list of countries and their languages around the world), one participant cites Ryan Boothe, and another mentions and posts a YouTube video that talks about the birth of English (The Adventure of English - Episode 1 Birth of a Language).</i>
Agreeing and disagreeing (Do people agree/disagree with other participants? How do they do so?)	<i>Participants do not agree nor disagree to each other explicitly.</i>
Behavior (How do people behave in this particular forum? Are they polite? Sarcastic?)	<i>All participants are polite in their answers. Some of them are more objective in their postings, which may lead people into thinking they were rude.</i>
Participants (Who are they? Who can participate in this forum?)	<i>Students may mention participants' names and their occupations/schooling: 1) Jens Stengaard Larsen, Distributor at Post Danmark (2001-present); 2) Andy Zehner, data analyst and statistical researcher at Purdue University (2010-present); 3) Bhuvana Rameshwar, former Teacher (still learning), daughter, wife, mother; 4) David Weiser; 5) Ryan Boothe, Multilingual Entrepreneur; 6) Robert Edward Lewis, literature (Medieval German), finance (banking); 7) Mary Finn, Bachelor of Arts English & Communication, Queens College (1982); 8) Michael Shore, former Retired Electronic Technician at Royal Air Force (1953-1999); 9) Leslie Dellow, BSc from University of Leeds; 10) Dave Cunningham, studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and 11) Chris Jeffries, former Teacher of Conversational English for IELTS at</i>

	<i>Yunnan Normal University (2010-2011). Students are expected to say that everybody willing to participate in the discussion can join it based on participants' mentioned background.</i>
Interaction (How do people interact with each other in this forum?)	<i>People do not interact with each other, but each answer shows its number of views and upvotes.</i>
Objective (Why has one created this forum? What does s/he want from it?)	<i>The evidences for this topic are not so clear-cut. Students may say that the person who posted the question wanted to have their question answered. Probably, they do not want a very theoretical answer, but other people's opinion on the matter.</i>