

《高中英语（上外版）》选择性必修第二册 Unit 2 Language and Mind
Worksheet

课时学习目标:

能依据议论文的文体特征，分析语篇内容，包括论点、论据和论证方法等；

能依据语篇中的例证，归纳和总结作者的观点和态度；

能深入理解语言与思维的关系，并基于个人体验和经历分享外语学习对个人的影响。

I. Pre-reading

1. What are the functions of mind?

2. Based on your experience, what benefits can learning a language bring to you?

II. While-reading

1. What's the long debatable question?

2. How does the writer prove her perspective on the question?

3. Read paragraph 2 to 4, and try to list the three claims and examples in support of the author's perspective.

claim	examples

4. Read paragraph 5 to find the expressions that can describe the degree of influence language has on the way people think.

III. Post-reading

1. Has learning or using English changed the way you think? Can you give us some examples?

IV. Assignments

1. Read the excerpt from the lecture to explore more language's influences on the way people think and complete the table.
2. Watch the whole lecture and finish the exercise. (Optional)

附录:

Instruction: Read the excerpt and finish the table with the examples both from the text and the excerpt.

Now, I've given you a few examples of how language can profoundly shape the way we think, and it does so in a variety of ways. So language can have big effects, like we saw with space and time, where people can lay out space and time in completely different coordinate frames from each other. Language can also have really deep effects --that's what we saw with the case of number. Having count words in your language, having number words, opens up the whole world of mathematics. Of course, if you don't count, you can't do algebra, you can't do any of the things that would be required to build a room like this or make this broadcast, right? This little trick of number words gives you a stepping stone into a whole cognitive realm.

Language can also have really early effects, what we saw in the case of color. These are really simple, basic, perceptual decisions. We make thousands of them all the time, and yet, language is getting in there and fussing even with these tiny little perceptual decisions that we make. Language can have really broad effects. So the case of grammatical gender may be a little silly, but at the same time, grammatical gender applies to all nouns. That means language can shape how you're thinking about anything that can be named by a noun. That's a lot of stuff. And finally, I gave you an example of how language can shape things that have personal weight to us --ideas like blame and punishment or eyewitness memory. These are important things in our daily lives.

Now, the beauty of linguistic diversity is that it reveals to us just how ingenious and how flexible the human mind is. Human minds have invented not one cognitive universe, but 7,000 -- there are 7,000 languages spoken around the world. And we can create many more -- languages, of course, are living things, things that we can hone and change to suit our needs. The tragic thing is that we're losing so much of this linguistic diversity all the time. We're losing about one language a week, and by some estimates, half of the world's languages will be gone in the next hundred years. And the even worse news is that right now, almost everything we know about the human mind and human brain is based on studies of usually American English-speaking undergraduates at universities. That excludes almost all humans. Right? So what we know about the human mind is actually incredibly narrow and biased, and our science has to do better.

I want to leave you with this final thought. I've told you about how speakers of different languages think differently, but of course, that's not about how people elsewhere think. It's about how you think. It's how the

language that you speak shapes the way that you think. And that gives you the opportunity to ask, "Why do I think the way that I do?" "How could I think differently?" And also, "What thoughts do I wish to create?" Thank you very much.

-an excerpt from the transcription of *How language Shapes the Way We Think* by Lera Boroditsky

Claims	Supporting examples