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

I. Pre-reading

1. What are the functions of mind?

Our mind can give us the ability to memorize words and to concentrate during class time.

Our mind can give us the ability to understand different ideas and to calculate numbers when shopping.

Our minds can help us create things.

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

Based on my experience of learning English, I think learning a language has many benefits, including improving my memory. For example, when I was in primary school, memorizing new words was always a challenge for me, but with the growing ability of my English, I became better at memorizing new words and expressions.

In my opinion, learning a language can improve my concentration and build my willpower because when I try to express my thoughts in English, I need to keep making efforts to concentrate and try my best to express myself in a clear and simple way so that the listeners understand me.

II. While-reading

1.　What's the long debatable question?

According to the first paragraph, the long debatable question is whether language shapes the way we think.

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

The author uses three claims and corresponding examples to support her point of view.

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

claim	examples
Language can influence the way we think about space.	The Kuuk Thaayorre people have a good sense of direction because of the language they speak.
Language can influence the way we express colours.	Influenced by the language they speak, Russian people are faster when recognizing the difference between dark blue and light blue.
Language can influence the way we describe accidents.	English speakers and Spanish speakers pay attention to different aspects when describing an accident, because the action doer is usually mentioned in English but is normally not mentioned in Spain.

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

Language can have big effects, as we saw with space. Language can also have really early effects, as we saw in the case of color. They have an impact on our simple, basic decisions. And finally we saw how language can shape things that have personal significance for us -- ideas like blame and punishment.

III. Post-reading

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

Yes, there are many differences between Chinese and English, so when I want to talk about the same thing in different ways, I have to change the way I think. For example, when I write the address of my school in English, I have to start with the smaller units while the beginning of an address is always a large unit.

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 <u>both from the text and the excerpt.</u>

   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

Language can have big effects.	When describing space and time, people speaking different languages can lay them out in completely different coordinate frames from each other.
Language can also have really deep effects.	In the case of number, having count words or number words in your language open up the whole world of mathematics.
Language can also have really early effects.	In the case of color, people speaking different languages make simple, basic, perceptual decisions differently.
Language can have really broad effects.	In the case of grammatical gender, it can shape how you're thinking about anything that can be named by a noun.
Language can shape things that have personal weight to us.	In the case of blame and punishment or eyewitness memory, these are important things in our daily lives.