

- 1a) German (**D**), English (**E**), French (**F**), Italian (**I**), Romansh (**R**) (Sursilvan)
- b) Individual answers
- c) Individual answers
- d) **E**, **F** and **I** can be grouped together because in these languages, the predicate (verb) is always placed after the subject. Accordingly, the sentence order «subject, verb, object» remains unchanged. In **D** and **R**, the predicate (verb) is always in the second position.
- e) Individual answers

Examples could be:

- The students group the languages according to lexical similarities: **F**, **I**, **R** for «chantent», «cantano», «contan», **E**, **D** for «singen» and «sing» or «le matin», «di mattina», «la damaun» and «morgens», «in the morning».
- The students group the languages according to orthographic similarities: **I**, **R**, «canzoni», «canzuns» as well as «uccelli», «utschals».

- 2a) Syntax/sentence order

 Note that students may first focus on content, e.g. «birds», «plurilingualism».

- b) Individual answers depending on language combination possible. Generally:

In both **D** and **R**, the verb is always in the second position. In **F**, **E**, **I** the verb is always placed after the subject.

- 3a) English, Français, Italiano
b) Deutsch, Romontsch

4. English, Français or Italiano:

English: **The cocks love live worms.**

Français: **Les coqs aiment des vers vivants.**

Italiano: **I galli amano i vermi vivi.**

German or Romontsch:

Deutsch: **Die Hähne lieben lebendige Würmer.**

Romontsch: **Ils cots aman viarms vivs.**

5. Deutsch: 4
English: 1
Français: 5
Italiano: 3
Romontsch: 2

6.

How the wren became the king of all birds (based on a fable by Aesop)

«Mother, mother, please tell us the story of how we became the kings of the birds!», the little wren chicks chirp. «You tell the story so beautifully!»

The mother feeds a little caterpillar to one of her chicks. «You want to hear stories all day long», she tweets tiredly.

But the little wrens sing: «Yes, yes, yes, please, please!»

«Alright, I will tell you the story.»

The tiny birds quickly shut their beaks and listen attentively. Their mother starts telling the story:

«A long, long time ago, **all birds organised** a flying competition among themselves. The bird which would fly the highest, was to become the king of the birds. **The small songbirds were** the first to get tired. Soon, they gave up and flew back to the ground. Now, only **the eagle was still flying**. **He soared** high up in the sky. **He won** the competition – or at least that's what he thought. As he became tired, too, and was about to land, **he heard** a tiny little voice above him: «Je suis la reine, I am the queen! Jetzt bin ich die Königin!» That was your great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandmother. **She had been hiding** within the eagle's plumage. Now **she was fluttering** in the air above him. **All the little songbirds sang** a victory song: «Sie hat gewonnen! Nous avons une petite reine! In pign utschi ei la regina! Now we have a little queen! Adesso i piccoli uccelli sono i re!» **The big birds, however, were** angry and whistled: «That's not fair! She only won because she tricked us cunningly!» But your great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandmother answered: «L'aquila vola in alto perché è forte e assidua. I fly high because I am smart and inconspicuous. Daco duei l'in valer e l'auter buc?»

F, E, D

D, F
R, E, II
E
R

The little wren chicks are excited about the story and tweet jubilantly: «Wir sind klug und unauffällig, that's why we are the kings!» Alarmed, the mother looks up at the sky, where the buzzards and red kites draw their circles. «Shhhhh! Quiet! **The wrens may be** the kings of the birds, but **wrens are** also very small indeed. And **you are** very loud. And just now, **the birds of prey** up there **are** very hungry.»

7. In **D** and **R**, the verb is always in the second position in a sentence.
In **E**, **F**, **I**, the verb is always placed after the subject.

Suggestion for a cloze exercise (text in bold print as suggested gaps):

In German and Romansh, the verb is always in the **second position** in a sentence.
In English, French, Italian, the verb is always placed after the **subject**.