

Reading Comprehension Task on “The Empire Writes Back” by Salman Rushdie

Tick the right box and, for the ‘true’ and ‘false’ options, give the page and line number of the respective reference in the text plus the first and last word of the quote in question.

Go only by what the text¹ says.

	True	False	Not in the text	Pages / lines
01) The Raj was built on chamchas.				
02) Today’s powerful people are often products of the Empire.				
03) The British gave frontiers to their colonies.				
04) The British successfully spread Christianity.				
05) Writers in former colonies had better avoid being Uncle Toms.				
06) Other cultures have adapted English before.				
07) English does no longer belong only to the British.				
08) Lorna Sage cannot believe that modern English literature is centrifugal.				
09) No language other than English could be as international.				
10) Some works of the new English literature are products of translation.				
11) G. V. Desani demonstrated that English naturally sounds Indian.				
12) World politics is a major aspect of western literature.				
13) It is possible for the West to treat politics in literature only as marginal.				
14) Ngugi wa Thiong’o wants to show the universality of the chamcha concept.				
15) Earl Lovelace avoids writing about anything that is not fully clear.				
16) Britain is in desperate need of decolonising.				
17) In Britain, there might still be imperial attitudes left.				
18) The development of new literatures in English has come to an end.				

¹ H. Korff / A. Ringel-Eichinger (Hrsg.), *One Language Many Voices* (Berlin: Cornelsen, 2005), pp. 216-221.

Solutions:

	True	False	Not in the text	Pages / lines
01) The Raj was built on chamchas.	✓			
02) Today's powerful people are often products of the Empire.	✓			
03) The British gave frontiers to their colonies.			✓	
04) The British successfully spread Christianity.			✓	
05) Writers in former colonies had better avoid being Uncle Toms.	✓			
06) Other cultures have adapted English before.	✓			
07) English does no longer belong only to the British.	✓			
08) Lorna Sage cannot believe that modern English literature is centrifugal.		✓		
09) No language other than English could be as international.	✓			
10) Some works of the new English literature are products of translation.	✓			
11) G. V. Desani demonstrated that English naturally sounds Indian.		✓		
12) World politics is a major aspect of western literature.			✓	
13) It is possible for the West to treat politics in literature only as marginal.	✓			
14) Ngugi wa Thiong'o wants to show the universality of the chamcha concept.			✓	
15) Earl Lovelace avoids writing about anything that is not fully clear.		✓		
16) Britain is in desperate need of de-colonising.		✓		
17) In Britain, there might still be imperial attitudes left.	✓			
18) The development of new literatures in English has come to an end.		✓		