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**Department of English**

**Lecture: Reading comprehension**

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**Text: Which English Will We Speak?**

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**Before You Read**

Languages without Borders

**A. Match each group of countries to the language they share.**

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1 Austria, Germany,   | Portuguese |
| 2 Egypt, Syria, Yemen | Spanish    |
| 3 Colombia, Cuba      | Arabic     |
| 4 Brazil, Portugal    | English    |
| 5 Australia, Jamaica  | German     |

**B. Answer the following question:**

- Why do we learn English? Why do you think English is a popular language to learn?

**C. Discuss your answers with a partner.**

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**A. Skim each paragraph of the passage on the next page. Then match each paragraph to its main idea.**

- \*Paragraph 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Paragraph 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Paragraph 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Paragraph 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Paragraph 5 \_\_\_\_\_

- a. There are many varieties of English.
- b. The future of English is uncertain.
- c. English is widely used and growing in countries like China and Russia.
- d. The first group consists of countries with native English speakers.
- e. Countries like India and Malaysia use their own variety of English in everyday life.

**B. Skim the passage again quickly. Then complete the sentence below.**

The main idea of this passage is that \_\_\_\_\_

- a. the most important type of English continues to be British English
- b. there are many types of English, and they will continue to change
- c. English will not be the international language for much longer

**A. Now read the entire passage carefully. Then answer the questions.**

**Reading Skill  
Identifying Main  
Ideas and Using  
Background  
Knowledge!**

When we read, we try to make connections between what we are reading and what we already know. It is easier to make those connections if we know the main idea of the text.



\*English is called an international language, but there are actually quite a few **varieties** of English that **exist** around the world. English **originated** in England, but soon English spread to other countries, and different varieties of English began to exist. Today, the countries in which English is spoken can be divided into three groups.

\*The first group is made of those countries where English is the **primary** language. These are countries like England, Canada, the United States, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. There are more than 380 million native Speakers of English in these countries alone.

\*There is a second group of countries that have their own varieties of English. Their histories have been directly influenced by one of the early English-speaking societies. They use English in various important ways within their own government and everyday life. India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Kenya are examples of this group. The total number of speakers in this group is in the hundreds of millions.

\*In a third group of countries, English is widely used as a foreign language. However, citizens use their native language within their own government and in everyday life. Some countries in this group are China, Russia, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Indonesia, and many Western European countries. Some people **calculate** the number of speakers in this group to be as many as one billion and it is growing fast. \*This changing **situation** raises many questions. Will another language **replace** English as the international language? If not, will, people continue to use the English of countries such as England or the United States as models? Will new varieties of English **develop** in countries such as China or Brazil? Or, in the future, will a new international variety of English develop that doesn't belong to any one country, but to an entire area like Asia or Europe?



## Reading Comprehension

### Check Your Understanding

A. Choose the correct answers for the following questions.

1 England, America, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand are countries where \_\_\_\_\_

- people speak English as a foreign language
- English is the main language
- people still use the type of English used in England

2 In China and Brazil, English is widely used \_\_\_\_\_

- in everyday life
- by the government
- as a foreign language

3 The \_\_\_\_\_ group has the most number of English speakers.

- first
- second
- third

4 Which sentence does the writer most likely agree with?

- English will stay in its current form for a long time.
- No one knows if English will remain the international language.
- Soon there will be more native speakers of English than non-native speakers.

B. Read the following sentences. Check(✓) true (T), false (F), or not given (NG). If the sentence is false, change it to make it true.

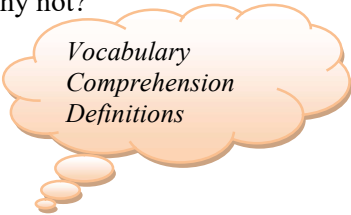
- English originated in the United States.
- The writer thinks English is easy to learn.
- The Philippines has its own variety of English.
- English is widely used as a foreign language in Egypt.



### Critical Thinking

C. Discuss the following questions with a partner.

- Do you think it is important for the world to have an international language? Why, or why not?
- Do you think another language will replace English as the international language in the future? Why, or why not?



### Vocabulary Comprehension Definitions

A. Match each word with its definition. The words in blue are from the passage.

- |              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Exist     | a. to work with numbers             |
| 2. Calculate | b. to grow or change over time      |
| 3. Primary   | c. how things are                   |
| 4. Develop   | d. where something begins           |
| 5. Originate | e. type or kind of something        |
| 6. Replace   | f. the main or most important thing |
| 7. Situation | g. to take or fill the place of     |
| 8. Variety   | h. to be real or to be present      |

**B.** Complete the following sentences using the correct form of words from A.

1. I'm terrible at math. It takes me forever to \_\_\_\_\_ my expenses.
2. I need a new pair of shoes to \_\_\_\_\_ my old ones, but there's such a big that I can't decided which to buy!
3. It can be an uncomfortable \_\_\_\_\_ when you forget someone's name.
4. The city \_\_\_\_\_ slowly along the river, which became its \_\_\_\_\_ source of water.

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**A.** Look at these English words that came from other languages. Practice saying them with a partner.

**Language Loan word**

French: passport  
Turkish: kiosk  
Latin: candle  
Italian: violin  
Spanish: mosquito  
German: hamburger

**Language Loan word**

Dutch: cruise  
Indian: shampoo  
Japanese: tsunami  
Malay: ketchup  
Chinese: tea


**B.** Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the words in A. You may use your dictionary to help you.

1. Would you like some coffee or..... ?
2. A..... is a very small animal that drinks blood.
3. I'm using a new..... . It makes my hair really shiny.
4. I would like some..... on my .....
5. You have to bring your..... with you when you go traveling.
6. I bought a magazine at the .....
7. The..... in 2004 destroyed many areas near the Indian Ocean.
8. I wish I had learned to play the..... when I was young

**Vocabulary Skill**  
**Loan Words**  
There are many words in English that have come from other languages. These are called *loan words* and they are now used as part of everyday English.



**Research**

-  Use the internet to look for more loan words and indicate which language they originate from.