
Subject: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [GEORGE ZIMMER](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 04:21:16 GMT

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Just somewhat curious. I had a discussion with a friend earlier, and we got onto the topic of whether or not English should be the official language of the US. It wouldn't mean you'd NEED to speak English at every given moment, but in order to become a citizen and the like, it should be required to know English.

Pros: Less lazy immigrants. If they can't speak any English and are in the US, it makes it easier to spot illegals.

Less confusion. A larger majority of people speaking English would just be easier in general.

Less possible crime rate that is a result of illegal immigrants. Probably sounds racist, but too bad. It's true, alot of areas with high amounts of illegals, juuust so happen to have equally high crime rates. Usually, anyways.

Cons: Makes us seem a bit more uptight, and hell, it may very well make America more uptight. Which we certainly don't need to be.

Could possibly mess up foreign relations, as we'd seem like "closed borders" then.

Feel free to throw in other pros/cons to this. I personally think it'd be nice. You'd naturally still be free to speak any language you want after becoming a citizen, but honestly, it should be required to become a citizen.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Genesis2001](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 04:42:43 GMT

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I agree! Though, we're probably going towards a (somewhat at least) "closed door" policy with the fence going up down here on the border...(somewhat!)

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Rocko](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 05:27:00 GMT

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nah weez dont need no shit like dat in muh hood

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Dover](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 05:45:41 GMT

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Yes please. Otherwise, I demand equal treatment. I am an immigrant from Bulgaria, yet none of the informational material in California is printed in Bulgarian (Outside of the Bulgarian embassy, but that's DUHHHHHH), yet you can see signs/flyers/etc in Spanish almost anywhere in the state that you go.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [GoArmy44](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:02:47 GMT
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All of America's important historical and cultural documents are in English...so yeah I think to become a citizen you have to learn it. The United States isn't founded on a religion, race, or culture; we are founded on an ideal embodied in our constitution, if those ideals can't be passed on because large segments of our populace can't understand what "We the People" means..then we have a problem.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:34:37 GMT
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Having a standard language make sense; it makes everything run smoother when you don't have to translate everything. Since the vast majority of people in the US speak English as their first language, it makes just as much sense that English should be that language. I never got what the big deal was in the first place- most countries in the world today have designated an official language. That doesn't mean other languages are banned from all use, just that one will be chosen for government and business use for the sake of convenience and streamlining. There's nothing racist or bigoted about that- everybody has to know it, bar none. This is coming from someone who is semi-fluent in Spanish, by the way, at least in reading and writing.

On the other hand, I do not think that learning English should be a prerequisite for citizenship. That would be a case of over-regulation; if all of the available services (and, for that matter, the immigration paperwork) were already in English, they'd have to learn the language anyway. To give one example of a potential problem with making English fluency a requirement for citizenship, what happens when a citizen marries a non-citizen who doesn't speak English fluently enough to pass a test yet? What happens if a child is born to citizen parents while out of country, then raised without learning English? Are those people still eligible, or will their citizenship be revoked or denied?

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [cnc95fan](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 08:09:38 GMT
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Dover wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 23:45 Yes please. Otherwise, I demand equal treatment. I am an immigrant from Bulgaria, yet none of the informational material in California is printed in

Bulgarian (Outside of the Bulgarian embassy, but that's DUHHHHHH), yet you can see signs/flyers/etc in Spanish almost anywhere in the state that you go.
Well, with all due respect, Spanish is one of the most spoken languages, whilst Bulgarian is not.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [Canadacdn](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 08:11:35 GMT
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Que?

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [Feetseek](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 08:22:53 GMT
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cnc95fan wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 00:09Dover wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 23:45Yes please. Otherwise, I demand equal treatment. I am an immigrant from Bulgaria, yet none of the informational material in California is printed in Bulgarian (Outside of the Bulgarian embassy, but that's DUHHHHHH), yet you can see signs/flyers/etc in Spanish almost anywhere in the state that you go.
Well, with all due respect, Spanish is one of the most spoken languages, whilst Bulgarian is not.

Also, since California was only somewhat recently turned over to the United States from Mexico and borders Mexico, Spanish influence is quite strong in California.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [Dover](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 08:58:06 GMT
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cnc95fan wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 00:09Dover wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 23:45Yes please. Otherwise, I demand equal treatment. I am an immigrant from Bulgaria, yet none of the informational material in California is printed in Bulgarian (Outside of the Bulgarian embassy, but that's DUHHHHHH), yet you can see signs/flyers/etc in Spanish almost anywhere in the state that you go.
Well, with all due respect, Spanish is one of the most spoken languages, whilst Bulgarian is not.

OPPRESSION BY THE MAJORITY I HAVE RIGHTS

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [u6795](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 11:29:13 GMT
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I agree with Nukelt, having most things require knowledge of English would be enough to force

people into learning.

Besides, lots of countries expect you to learn their language before coming. The exception I've seen first hand is many European countries, but this is mostly due to the heavy American presence around military bases. They love it when you make an attempt, though, to speak German or whatever it is where you are.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Memphis](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 11:39:37 GMT

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English or US English?

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 14:12:13 GMT

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It should be required to speak English to become a citizen, just as it should be here. As it is, our government seems to think it would be a better idea to start teaching languages like Urdu in schools instead.

We don't even teach Welsh ffs

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Goztow](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 14:13:40 GMT

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The same question exists in all countries. Belgium has 3 official languages and still we don't oblige all citizens to know at least one of them ffs.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [YazooGang](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 14:40:44 GMT

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¿Como es tas?

taking a spanish class at school

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 15:49:00 GMT

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No, we need no requirement for any language. Ever.

Just because most people happen to speak English, doesn't mean that it that everyone has to. It's a stupid idea that is nothing but a waste of money and time when it comes to actually teaching it to others.

Not only that, it is pointless because not everyone will learn it anyway.

For example, you will still get illegal aliens. And they are the main people targeted for this. If they are illegals, they wont bother to attend a language class, therefore defeating the entire purpose of the classes.

Not to mention, speaking what ever language you want is another division of freedom of expression and freedom of speech. If I spoke Spanish, I should have every right to chose never to learn English, regardless of how hard I make it for myself and other people. It's my right to do so.

There should be absolutely no language requirements to live in this country. EVER.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 16:06:54 GMT

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R315r4z0r wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 09:49Just because most people happen to speak English, doesn't mean that it that everyone has to. It's a stupid idea that is nothing but a waste of money and time when it comes to actually teaching it to others.

Well, the alternative seems to be having to employ an army of interpreters in every other language, for any legal purpose. Isn't that a waste of taxpayer's money?

Even if you think it is not, I would think it is probably more expensive than adding English to the school syllabus. Replace it with religious education, kill two birds with one stone.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 16:27:25 GMT

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There should be a national language. America touts "diversity", and they all want "unity", but how can you have unity when everybody speaks a different language?

Nobody is saying that they have to abandon their native languages or their heritage, but it's just cheaper for the government to have ONE language on signs rather than two.

Look, you don't decide to go over to a friend's house and then demand that they accommodate you. YOU'RE the one who decided to go over to their house. Nobody invited you, so you have absolutely no room to ask that they change for you.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:10:06 GMT
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Spoony wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 11:06Well, the alternative seems to be having to employ an army of interpreters in every other language, for any legal purpose. Isn't that a waste of taxpayer's money?
Who said anything about translators?

People speak different languages, if someone wants to communicate with someone else of another language they should make their own business to either higher a translator or learn the language.

No one should be forced to do or learn anything they don't want to. It has absolutely nothing to do with tax payers at all.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:25:44 GMT
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R315r4z0rIt has absolutely nothing to do with tax payers at all.
Yes, it does. When state and local governments spend more money on signs, ballots, etc... because they have to have it in 2 (or more) translations, it does cost the taxpayer more.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:41:39 GMT
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Not what I was getting at. I mean more money than it currently does.

What would you rather spend your money on?

1. Making multi-language signs (cheapest)
2. Training and teaching government registered translators (more expensive)
3. Make sure everyone knows English and of the ones who don't, give them government controlled classes that teach them (most expensive)

It's a waste of money to pay anymore for something people don't need and don't want. Not to mention the costing fees it would take to first make sure everyone knows English through some sort of national exam or something. Oh, and the Constitution and the foundation of the country, lets not forget about that either.

Like I said, if someone is in dire need of communication, they should make it their own business, using their own money to make sure they can communicate. No one else should be involved with that unless they volunteer to be.

It is my right not to want to learn or have anything to do with the English language. It's bad enough

that an English class is a mandatory study in schools in America...

What I think SHOULD be put more of a focus on is languages OTHER than English. There should be a broader choice for languages for study in schools. English shouldn't be a mandatory class, what should be is a language class, with many more choices for languages than there are currently offered. That would be more worth the effort and cost. However it is still even more expensive than the things explained above, therefore it will never happen.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:48:45 GMT
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I didnt even know english isnt the official US language O.o

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [MGamer](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 22:32:28 GMT
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YazooGang wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 08:40¿Como estás?

taking a spanish class at school
fixed

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 22:38:00 GMT
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R315r4z0r wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 15:41Not what I was getting at. I mean more money than it currently does.

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You're an idiot and missing the point if you think that the government HAS to spend money on this. The entire point is that the government SHOULDN'T be spending money on any of this. The people that want to get into the United States and are living here should be fluent enough in English to get by. Nobody's asking them to be masters of the language. Hell, if we made that mandatory, we'd have to deport natural born citizens because so many of them don't even know proper English.

We don't have to offer classes to citizens. That's just it. If they want to get by in America, they should know how to speak English. It doesn't involve the government, at all. If you're an ugly, obese slob who can't get a date, should the government then have to pay for you to learn how to lose weight and maybe get plastic surgery so you're even the least bit attractive to other humans? No. Even if it's not your fault that you're like that, it's not the government's responsibility to acclimate you. YOU have to do it on your free time, like you said.

If you need a translator, what makes you think it's the government's job to provide one? If someone needs a translator, they should be forced to get one at their own expense.

Why do people always insist that the government HAS to be a part of something stupid like this? Your argument that signs are the least expensive way to acclimate people is the wrong way to look at it. The government should not be spending ANY money because people are too stupid/stubborn/lazy/arrogant to learn the overwhelming spoken language in the nation.

To further my point, we have plenty of non-English (American, Canadian, UKers, Aussies, Kiwis) people on these forums that type fluent English. Hell, they type a lot more properly than most of the native English speakers on these forums. THEY DON'T EVEN LIVE IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS. If they can learn it, what is so fucking hard about making people who LIVE in the United States learn English?

Not to mention that English is the second most widely spoken language on the planet.

Lastly, if I move to a foreign country where English is not an official language, I'm not going to bitch and moan about not being acclimated. I made the choice to move. I realized that when I moved, they didn't speak English. If I get lucky to find someone fluent in English while I'm there, GREAT, but I won't expect it. I'll have to learn the language if I want to get by, and that's the way it should be.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 01:15:30 GMT

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Quote:"The problem with defending the purity of the English language is that English is about as pure as a cribhouse whore. We don't just borrow words; on occasion, English has pursued other languages down alleyways to beat them unconscious and rifle their pockets for new vocabulary." - James D. Nicoll

QFT.

You can't expect perfection. Everyone has their own manner of speaking, and English is one of those languages that absorbs bits and pieces of any other language it touches. If anything, that makes English an ideal common language- you can go right on using your own expressions and nobody will so much as look sideways at you for it as long as they got the gist of the conversation.

And before anybody pulls out that detestable "colonial legacy" card, Latin America got Spanish and Portugese the same way the US got English. A language is a means of communication; while it serves as a medium for transmitting culture it is not a culture in and of itself unless it grew out of the culture which uses it. Spanish is no more 'worthy' a tongue than English in this regard- or does someone out there honestly believe that the Aztecs, the Mayans, and the Incas were all greeting each other with friendly "Holas" before the first Conqistadors showed up on their doorstep?

Fact: most of the Spanish-speaking immigrants in this country did not immigrate from Spain.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [luv2pb](#) on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 06:42:54 GMT

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We can't even get English the language in our own country. How the hell would we get it for the whole world? At least the internet is ... that is a good start.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Fabian](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 00:22:19 GMT

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I am against legislating speech, but I am also against my tax dollars going to pay for public schools to be taught in other languages, or to offer driver's permit tests to be in any other languages, or any other form of government sponsored pandering to other languages. Our laws are written in English. We speak English. Speak whatever language you wish, but don't expect Americans to learn your language--you should be learning English.

On a completely different note, I think American students suck at foreign languages compared to other countries, and there should be an effort to fix this.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [u6795](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 00:33:23 GMT

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mjfabian wrote on Tue, 16 December 2008 19:22: On a completely different note, I think American students suck at foreign languages compared to other countries, and there should be an effort to fix this.

I think this is mostly due to the lack of motivation most students have to learn another language- English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, and most things nowadays feature English in some way or another, so really it's no necessity. However, I agree, foreign language is an important part of the curriculum that should be improved.

I love foreign language classes, I've taken German and Spanish in the past and am currently in Chinese 1 as a freshman. Fun class.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [BlueThen](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 01:28:25 GMT

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English should be the universal language.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 01:37:04 GMT

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Agreed; there really isn't much of a motivation for people born in the US to learn any language but English. Not like there would be for, say, someone living in France or Germany with other countries in easy driving distance speaking literally dozens of different languages. Most tourist hotspots in Mexico aren't places which require fluency in Spanish, and Canada is bilingual wherever it isn't English-dominant... and that covers all of the countries a US citizen can get to without the hassle and expense of ship or airline travel.

I believe there is an intrinsic value in having at least partial fluency in another language, if only in order to be a more well-rounded and open-minded person (it aids in understanding culture; the language one speaks has a significant influence on thought patterns). However, that isn't the sort of thing that should be legislated; if people want to live in ignorance of the world around them, that's their own damn business. There should not be second language requirements in school, period.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [a000clown](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 05:52:10 GMT

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I agree with cheesiesoda. I live in a French dominate part of Canada and am therefore forced to

learn both English and French in school.

I've lived here all my life and even have friends who are French yet somehow I still manage to suck at learning it and this causes lots of problems for me.

Because I suck at French I tend to dislike the language, but I completely understand the reasons why I should try to speak it better and for the most part I am required to know the language if I intend to work full time.

Point of my little story being, although I suck at French I don't expect the government or anyone else to accommodate my needs and it is my own responsibility to try harder if I expect to get anywhere in life; I think the same should be said about anyone else who can't speak the dominate language of the location they reside in.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [SlikRik](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 21:27:52 GMT

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And now to stir things up a bit...

English should be made a universal language.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 22:31:17 GMT

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SlikRik wrote on Wed, 17 December 2008 16:27And now to stir things up a bit...

English should be made a universal language.

Uhh... look three posts before you.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [BlueThen](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 22:38:35 GMT

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cheesesoda wrote on Wed, 17 December 2008 16:31SlikRik wrote on Wed, 17 December 2008 16:27And now to stir things up a bit...

English should be made a universal language.

Uhh... look three posts before you.

Yea, lol. I just said that.

Transitioning from another language into English could be a problem. A simple solution would be to simply don't teach other languages anymore. But there will still be other problems with the former language.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [SlikRik](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:06:11 GMT

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O fuck, my bad. Here, I'll *facepalm* myself... lol...

Anyway, seriously, the official language of air and maritime transportation is English, let's just step it up a notch. Here's my resource: click

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Muad Dib15](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 21:46:04 GMT

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The official language should be American.

Fuck your Neighbour and colour and Honour. Neighbor, color, and honor ftw.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [GoArmy44](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 23:16:40 GMT

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mjfabian wrote on Tue, 16 December 2008 18:22

On a completely different note, I think American students suck at foreign languages compared to other countries, and there should be an effort to fix this.

I agree, I think if we were taught Latin from a young age other languages like French and Spanish would come more easily. I wish I had learned it sooner, as it has made my grammar and spelling better as well as allowing me to pick apart Romantic languages as I could never do before. While Latin and Greek are "foreign," their usage is very fundamental to our Western identity and does not represent an imposing cultural force.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Seadust](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 23:28:23 GMT

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I Definitely Agree that English should be the U.S. Official language, I have been taking Spanish for

two years now and this comes to mind: If I can go out and learn another language, why can't an immigrant(Hopefully legal) learn a little bit of English? If it doesn't kill me it sure won't kill them especially if they are hard working citizens who came to this country legally.

Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Jerad2142](#) on Sat, 17 Jan 2009 08:47:43 GMT

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Canadacdn wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 01:11Que?

Line
