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Introduction and the Top 5 Reasons to Study English

Linguistics

1. English is a Germanic language and is part of the Indo-European language group. It was carried to different continents with the British Empire, and by the late nineteenth century, it had stretched globally. If you include all the people who speak English as their native and as a non-native language, there are over five hundred million English speakers, which places its popularity after Spanish in second place and Chinese in first.

2. The English language is spoken as a native language in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and a few other countries. Since it's spoken in many different parts of the world, there are many dialects and accents to the language. However, BBC English, which is also called British English or the Queen's English, and General American, which is an accent from the midwest part of the United States, are two dialects that are widely accepted.

3. Written English uses the Latin, or, as it's sometimes called, the Roman, alphabet. Each letter has a lowercase and uppercase way to write it. The spelling of English words has influences from different languages; therefore, we may not always pronounce a word the way we spell it. Some spelling differences exist between BBC English and General American English.

4. As mentioned, people speak different kinds of English in different areas of the world, thus resulting in many different accents. When they study the language, many English learners find it frustrating that



person can pronounce the same word differently depending on the person and his or her background.

About the Motherland

English is a native language to the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Ireland, South Africa, and New Zealand. The two widely accepted dialects are British English and General American.

Where Is English Spoken?

On top of the native countries, English is spoken as a second language in many other countries. It is also regarded as the *lingua franca* or the global language.

Why English Is Important

So why should you learn English? Here are some of the top reasons!

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1. To surf the net. The number of websites in English exceeds those in any other language.
2. To read. English is the most widely published language.
3. To get ahead in your career. English is the language people use most in science, aviation, computers, diplomacy, and business. Many university courses are offered in English.
4. English is the *lingua franca*. If two people come face to face from different language backgrounds, then they will most likely revert to English to communicate.
5. Learning English is fun and rewarding. It opens up many doors, and with some practice every day, anyone can be able to speak and understand it.