



Global English

“Native speakers may feel the language 'belongs' to them, but it will be those who speak English as a second or foreign language who will determine its world future.”

Professor David Graddol, *British Linguist*



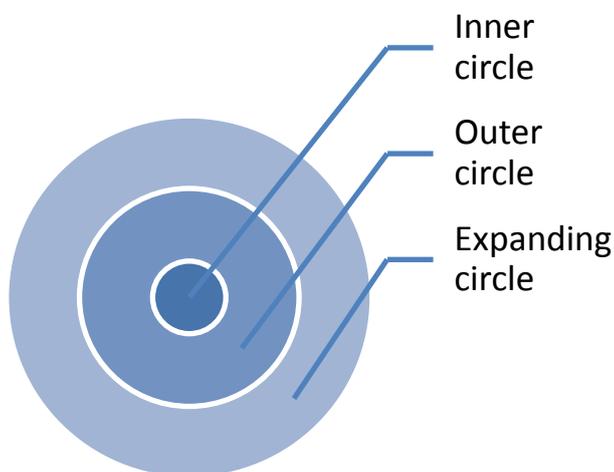
Discussion 1

- What do you think Global English means? What are World Englishes?



Matching Activity

Look at Braj Kachru's *Three Circles of English Speakers*. What do you think these concentric circles mean?



Match items from the box to one of the three circles. Write *I*, *O* or *E* next to each item.

Example: UK = Inner circle

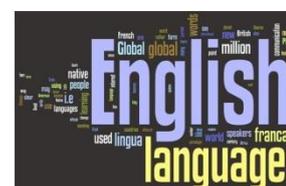
Italy	750 million	350-440 million	India	UK	USA
Philippines	Holland	Japan	375 million	Australia	Brazil

About Global English

Global English, sometimes called world Englishes, is an idea which tries to take the emphasis away from Native English speakers and give more power and flexibility to people who use English as their second language.

According to the British Council, in the world today there are 375 million native English speakers and 750 million people who speak English as a second language. So, for every 3 people in the world who speak English, two of them will speak English as a second language.

This means that the way we learn and teach English should reflect the fact that most people will use English in order to speak to people who are not native speakers. Therefore the idea of Global English is to have a more flexible approach to using the language and to give more power and ownership to second language learners.



Video Listening Comprehension

Before you watch

- Do you agree with the idea of global English?
- Do you think English grammar should be made easier to learn (for example, by not putting 's' on third person verbs)?
- Do you think that we should learn and teach other accents and ways of speaking English?

About Jay Walker

Watch the video discussion with Entrepreneur Jay Walker about the world's learning English Mania. This video is from www.ted.com



Comprehension Questions

1. Chinese students start learning English in the _____ grade by law.
2. What percentage of Chinese student's grade is based on English? _____%
3. What do you think is Jay Walker's opinion of English?
Choose one answer
 - a. It is "washing away" other languages
 - b. It can allow international communication
 - c. It is popular with school children in China
4. Jay Walker says "the world is pulling" English. By this he means
Choose one answer
 - a. English is being employed by more and more people for international communication
 - b. English is stronger than other languages because it is easier to learn
 - c. English is being forced as a world language by American political power
5. What does the term "the world's second language" mean?
Choose one answer.
 - a. Many people speak English as a native language
 - b. Many people learn English as a foreign language
 - c. Almost everyone in the world can speak English
6. Jay Walker states that English is a problem language
True False
7. Jay Walker says English is becoming the language of problem solving
True False



Discussion 2

- Who owns English?
- Who decides what grammar is correct or incorrect?
- Do you want to sound like a 'native speaker'?
- What is your main priority when you speak English – To be understood or to sound fluent and speak correctly?
- How many different Englishes are there?
- Does Japan have its own form of English?



Works Cited and Further Reading

- Graddol, David. *The Future of English? : A Guide to Forecasting the Popularity of the English Language in the 21st Century*. London: British Council, 1997. Print.
- Kachru, Braj B. "Standards, Codification and Sociolinguistic Realism: The English Language in the Outer Circle." *English in the World: Teaching and Learning the Language and Literatures*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985. Print.
- McArthur, Tom. *The English Languages*. Cambridge University Press, 1998. Print.
- Walker, Jay. *The World's English Mania*. Rec February 2009. TED Conferences, LLC, TED.Com, 2009.



Answer Key

Comprehension Questions

1. Chinese students start learning English in the **_THIRD GRADE** grade by law.
2. What percentage of Chinese student's grade is based on English? **25%**
3. What do you think is Jay Walker's opinion of English?
Choose one answer
 - a. It is 'washing away' other languages
 - b. It can allow international communication**
 - c. It is popular with school children in China
4. Jay Walker says the world is 'pulling' English. By this he means
Choose one answer
 - d. English is being employed by more and more people for international communication**
 - e. English is stronger than other languages because it is easier to learn
 - f. English is being forced as a world language by American political power
5. What does the term "the world's second language" mean?
Choose one answer.
 - d. Many people speak English as a native language
 - e. Many people learn English as a foreign language**
 - f. Almost everyone in the world can speak English
6. Jay Walker states that English is a problem language
True **False**
7. Jay Walker says English is becoming the language of problem solving
True **False**