

## Calls for everyone in England to speak English

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A top British official has said the UK government should set a target date for everybody in England to speak English. Dame Louise Casey is an expert on social welfare and community interaction. She said

a "common language" would help to "heal rifts across Britain". Ms Casey has been a long-time critic of successive governments, who she deems have failed to focus on integration in an ever-increasingly multicultural Britain. She said politicians had continually failed to keep up with the "unprecedented pace and scale of immigration" over the past decade. She said that many communities were becoming increasingly divided, and a lack of ability in English was a key factor in creating division.

The UK's Communities Secretary, Sajid Javid, revealed that 770,000 people who live in England either speak no English whatsoever or hardly any. He warned that up to 70 per cent of those whose English skills were lacking were women, mostly from Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities. He said these women were at great risk from inequality and discrimination. Ms Casey said: "Everybody of working age and of school age should be able to speak one language, and I think the public in particular would feel some relief." Opponents of Ms Casey's views say England should be proud to be a multi-lingual country and not force people to learn English if they have no desire to.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) / [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

## Writing

Anyone who lives in another country must learn that country's language. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

official / target / date / social welfare / community / interaction / immigration / key / English / skills / risk / inequality / discrimination / one language / multi-lingual / proud

## True / False

- a) A UK official wants everyone in England to speak English. T / F
- b) The official said a common language would heal divisions in Britain. T / F
- c) The official has always strongly supported UK governments. T / F
- d) The official said a lack of English skills created divisions in society. T / F
- e) Over a million people in England do not speak English. T / F
- f) Around 70% of those lacking English skills are women. T / F
- g) People who cannot speak English in England do not face discrimination. T / F
- h) Opponents of the official said people should be forced to learn English. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>top</b>        | a. danger      |
| 2. <b>expert</b>     | b. consecutive |
| 3. <b>heal</b>       | c. speed       |
| 4. <b>successive</b> | d. at all      |
| 5. <b>pace</b>       | e. specialist  |
| 6. <b>revealed</b>   | f. wish        |
| 7. <b>whatsoever</b> | g. comfort     |
| 8. <b>risk</b>       | h. leading     |
| 9. <b>relief</b>     | i. disclosed   |
| 10. <b>desire</b>    | j. repair      |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why don't people who live in Britain learn English?
- c) What are the best ways to learn English?
- d) How can you risk inequality if you can't speak the language?
- e) Would you like to live in England?
- f) How multi-lingual would you like to be?
- g) Should language ability be a requirement of citizenship?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the government official?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. an expert on social welfare and          | a. and scale of immigration |
| 2. a long-time critic of successive         | b. relief                   |
| 3. keep up with the unprecedented pace      | c. creating division        |
| 4. communities were becoming                | d. whatsoever               |
| 5. English was a key factor in              | e. governments              |
| 6. speak no English                         | f. great risk               |
| 7. hardly                                   | g. lingual country          |
| 8. these women were at                      | h. increasingly divided     |
| 9. the public in particular would feel some | i. any                      |
| 10. be proud to be a multi-                 | j. community interaction    |

## Discussion – Student B

- How good is your English?
- Should everyone who lives in a country speak the language?
- How difficult is it to live somewhere and not speak the language?
- What problems might you have living in an English-speaking country?
- What rifts do you think exist in England?
- What's the difference between England, Britain and the United Kingdom?
- What do you think of multiculturalism?
- What do you think of immigration?

## Spelling

- cseusisve governments
- tumiulutlrcal Britain
- keep up with the pendceeutnred pace
- scale of migaritmojn
- becoming acrinnisgely divided
- a key factor in creating vdsiion
- Secretary Sajid Javid evealred that
- speak no English otwsaehver
- Pakistani and Bangladeshi isnucetimmo
- at great risk from tnlieuaiqy
- the public in citrarulpa
- be a tmliu-ignlaur country

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. g	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Spelling

You think spelling is the most important thing to learn about English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): slang, travel English or essay writing.

### Role B – Slang

You think slang is the most important thing to learn about English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): spelling, travel English or essay writing.

### Role C – Travel English

You think travel English is the most important thing to learn about English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): slang, spelling or essay writing.

### Role D – Essay Writing

You think essay writing is the most important thing to learn about English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): slang, travel English or spelling.

## Speaking – English

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to learn about English at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • idioms            | • spelling      |
| • polite forms      | • pronunciation |
| • SMS abbreviations | • slang         |
| • travel English    | • essay writing |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.