

# Making English an Official Language



## Reading

The sun set on the British Empire long ago, but the shadow of the English language lingers. In many a newly independent country, that heritage run into resistance: having command of English was seen as being under the sway of foreign influences. Now, though, the bane has turned into a gain, giving an edge to those able to use the language of global communication in computers, finance, and tourism as well as academe.

In plain English, knowing English can be the key to top jobs and big money, not to mention foreign investment. Among educators and officials in some parts of the world, that renews a dilemma. Promoting English in schools, sometimes at the expense of local languages, confronts a host of cultural values.

Despite that, as one of the efforts to globalize this country, Korean officials decided to teach in elementary school. People seem to think English training in elementary school is more effective. That might be true. But our children study English 3 to 10 years already. So an additional two or three years of English wouldn't make any difference. Our lagging behind in English comes from systemic problems. For example our English curriculum focuses on grammar and reading comprehension. Many teachers are not qualified in teaching in English teaching. It is wiser to upgrade the current English teaching system by pouring more money into it. For example, we should develop more effective way of teaching, better textbooks, and more scientific instruments. Ten years of English learning should be enough if children are taught scientifically.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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