



Realizing that nation's future prosperity will depend a lot on its English communication skills, the country's leaders began to place the highest priority on English education beginning in the mid- 1990s.

English speaking ability has been essential for getting a job with any of the major multinational corporations in most countries. Job applicants have to pass oral interviews in English, usually conducted by native speakers, in order to be considered for important positions. Nowadays it would be impossible for a college graduate with no English ability to land a good job with a major corporation in their own countries.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do you feel about having to learn English? Explain.
 - @. It's very interesting to me. I enjoy learning English.
 - @. It's a lot of trouble. I wish I didn't have to learn it.
 - @. It's just so-so. I don't mind it, but I don't like it either.

2. How important is English conversation ability to success in today's business-world? Tell me why you think so?
 - @. It's extremely important. A person who doesn't know English will never succeed.
 - @. It's a little important. You can still get a job without knowing English.
 - @. It's not important at all. Learning English is a waste of time.

3. Looking ahead 20 years, how will the English ability of Japanese compare to the English ability of Japanese today? Explain your opinion.

4. What do you think of the idea of making English an official language of Tokyo, Japan? Do you think it will ever happen? Tell me why you think so?