



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:
 *discuss the advantages and disadvantages of making English an official language.



Read the Article:

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 Japan, officials recently decided to teach English 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 study wouldn't make any difference. Our lagging behind in English comes from systematic problems. For example, our English curriculum focuses on grammar and reading comprehension. Many teachers are not qualified in English teaching. It is wiser to upgrade the current English teaching system by pouring more money into it.



Let's Talk:

1. Why are some educators and officials in a dilemma?
2. What do people think about teaching English in elementary school?
3. What did officials in Japan decide to do to globalize the country?



Express Yourself:

1. Do you think English is one of the key factors in our country's development?
2. What do you think are the reason Japanese are still lagging in English education?
3. What do you think about making English an official language in your country?
4. Ordinary Japanese are weak both in spoken and written English. Do you think it's a good idea to make these subjects compulsory in college entrance exams?
5. Do you agree with the government's plan to teach English in elementary school? Do you think it will bring the intended results or that it will backfire?