

Video - Don't insist on English!



Source: https://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_ryan_ideas_in_all_languages_not_just_english

1- Choose the three statements that describe the main ideas of this excerpt.

- () Having English as a global language is bad.
- (x) The scientific world needs more translation.
- (x) Knowing English is different from being intelligent.
- () Anyone can pay for an English test.
- (x) English shouldn't be used as a barrier.

2- Match the highlighted expressions and their definitions.

Okay. "But," **I hear you say (h)**, "what about the research? It's all in English." So the books are in English, the journals are done in English, but that is a self-fulfilling prophecy. It feeds the English requirement. And so it goes on. **I ask you (g)**, what happened to translation? If you think about the Islamic Golden Age, there was lots of translation then. They translated from Latin and Greek into Arabic, into Persian, and then it was translated on into the Germanic languages of Europe and the Romance languages. And so light shone upon the Dark Ages of Europe. Now **don't get me wrong (f)**; I am not against teaching English, all you English teachers out there. I love it that we have a global language. We need one today more than ever. But **I am against (e)** using it as a barrier. Do we really want to end up with 600 languages and the main one being English, or Chinese? We need more than that. Where do we draw the line? This system equates intelligence with a knowledge of English, which is quite arbitrary. And **I want to remind you that (d)** the giants upon whose shoulders today's intelligentsia stand did not have to have English, they didn't have to pass an English test. **Case in point (b)**, Einstein. He, **by the way (c)**, was considered remedial at school because he was, in fact, dyslexic. But **fortunately (a)** for the world, he did not have to pass an English test. Because they didn't start until 1964 with TOEFL, the American test of English. Now it's exploded. There are lots and lots of tests of English. And millions and millions of students take these tests every year. Now you might think, you and me, "Those fees aren't bad, they're okay," but they are prohibitive to so many millions of poor people. So immediately, we're rejecting them.

- a. used for emphasizing that something good has happened, especially because of good luck.
- b. an example of the situation or behavior that you are talking about.
- c. used for saying that a remark is not relevant to the main subject of your conversation. The abbreviation BTW is often used in emails and text messages.
- d. used for warning someone or bringing something to their attention, especially something that they already know.
- e. If you are ... something such as a plan, policy, or system, you think it is wrong, bad, or stupid.
- f. said when you think someone might not understand what you say, or be upset by it.
- g. used before or after a question when one wants agreement or sympathy
- h. used for saying what you think someone's opinion will be, so that you can give your reaction to it.

Sources: <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>

3- Choose three of the expressions above and write examples.

Answers may vary.