

Lesson 73

Let Us Read

5 People have different opinions¹ about learning English. What's your opinion?



Why Must I Learn English?

Pete is a little boy. His family lives in a big house in Green Street. His father is a dentist. He works hard in a hospital. His mother is a housewife. She works hard about the house.

Pete is eight. He goes to school. He likes his school. He likes everything he learns there. But he doesn't like English. He does not want to learn it.

Today Pete's teacher gives him a bad mark² in English. When Pete comes home from school, his father says,

¹ opinion [ə'pɪnjən] — мнение

² a bad mark — плохая отметка

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“Again¹ a bad mark in English! Shame on you,² Pete!”

He is sorry and looks down. Then he looks up and asks his father, “Why must I learn English? I don’t know with whom I can speak English.”

“You, silly boy! You can speak English with your teacher and your friends. And you can watch TV films in English,” says his father.

“I can speak Russian with them,” says Pete, “I know Russian very well.”

“But if English or American children come to see us, don’t you want to speak with them?” asks Pete’s father.

“Of course, I do,” says Pete.

“Well, dear, and then don’t you want to go to England or America?” asks Pete’s father.

“I’d love to,” says Pete.

“Then you must know English well if you want to speak with your English or American friends.”

Pete thinks a little and then asks, “But do American and English children learn English?”

“Oh, yes, and they are very good pupils,” says Pete’s father.

“It’s great! Then I can speak Russian with them,” says Pete.

“Shame on you, a lazy boy!”

“Don’t be angry,³ Father. It’s a joke.⁴ I know why I must learn English.”

“I am glad that you are clever, my son, to understand⁵ it. Get only good marks in English.”

¹ Again [ə'gen] — Опять

² Shame on you — Стыдно

³ angry ['æŋgrɪ] — сердитый

⁴ joke [dʒo:k] — шутка

⁵ to understand [,ʌndə'staend] — понимать

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6 Agree or disagree.

1. Pete's family lives in a little house.
2. His mother works in a plant.
3. Pete doesn't like his school.
4. Father is angry with Pete for his bad marks in English.
5. Pete doesn't know why he must learn English.
6. English and American children learn Russian.
7. Father doesn't understand Pete's joke.