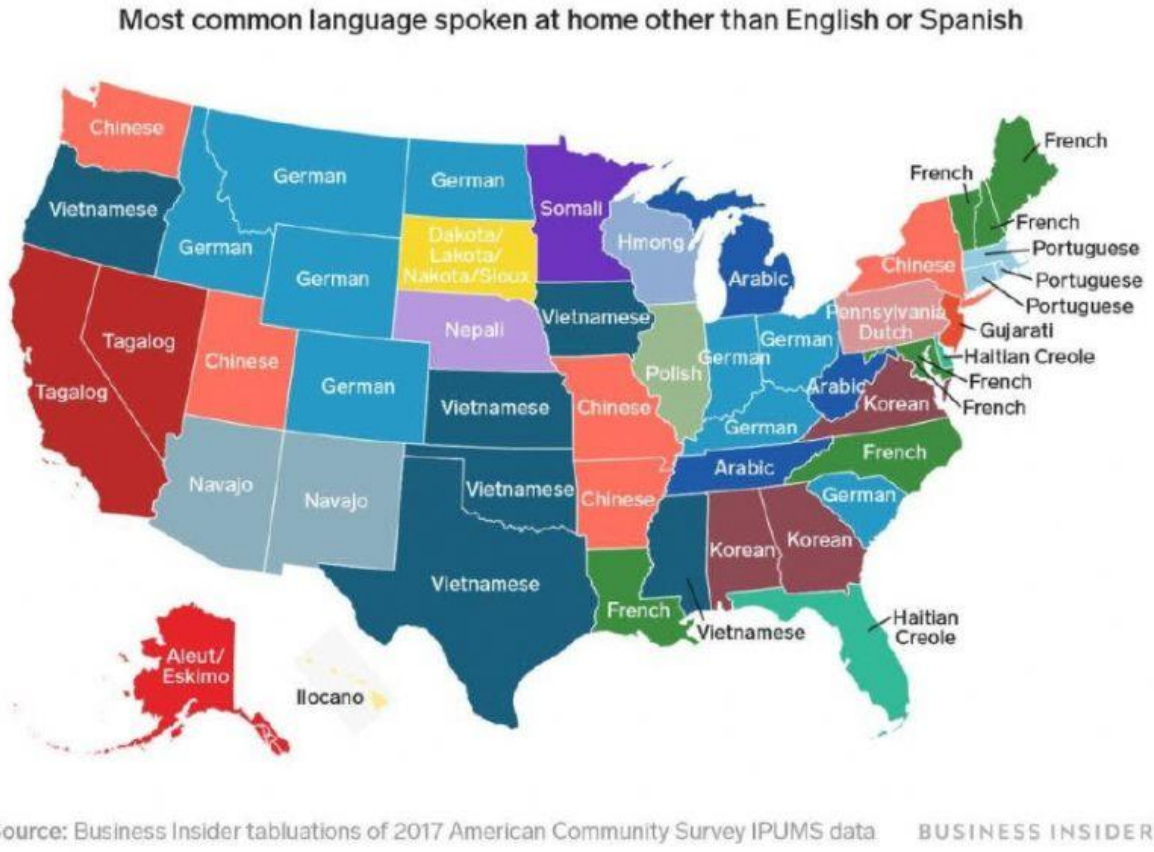
Read the text below. For questions 1-5 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.



What is the official language of the US?

Do you know what the official language of the United States is? If you answered English, guess again. Although, at the moment English is the most widely spoken language in the nation, Spanish is catching up with over forty million Hispanics speaking their native language at home, at work, and in their daily lives.

This brings us to another point: Why does the US, which is considered an English-speaking country, feel obliged to offer services for Spanish speakers and those speaking many other languages, some of which you might not even know about?

Well, let's not forget that since 1776 the US has been - and continues to be a multilingual nation. Back then, it wasn't uncommon to hear up to 20 different languages spoken in daily life.

Today 322 languages are spoken in the country. So having one official language would limit the rights of individuals who cannot communicate in English, individuals who are paying taxes and who should have the same rights as those who speak English.

Nevertheless, in 1780, John Adams proposed to the Continental Congress that English should be declared the official language of the United States. Debate over the official language has been going on for years, with people on both sides of the fence, but so far a decision has not been made. This doesn't mean that the individual states have not declared an official language because many already have. Twenty-seven states, to be exact, have declared English as their official language.

But, to protect the rights of those speaking any other languages, there is something called Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Although twenty-seven states have declared English as their official language, in order to receive federal financial assistance these states still have to follow Title VI, which requires that important materials be available in the language the person speaks if they want to be subsidised by the Federal Government.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 2000 Executive Order No. 13166 require that public organizations receiving federal funds must have all vital documents available in every language that their clients speak; every language, not just Spanish. Why? Because the US has never

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declared an official language and because of this, the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 still applies.

1 What is NOT true about the Spanish language in the US?

A Over 40 million people use it.

B Spanish is spoken at home and at work.

C The number of people who speak it is growing.

D It is the most widely spoken language.

2 Why isn't there an official language in the US?

A because of the immigrants that might come to the country

B because every citizen speaks many languages

C to encourage people to pay taxes

D to protect the rights of those whose English is limited

3 What language was suggested to be made the official language of the US in the 19th century?

A English

B Spanish

C German

D none

4 Where in the US is English the official language?

A in 27 states

B everywhere but for 27 states

C it is not

D everywhere with few exceptions

5 What language must all important documents be in?

A English

B any language, just not Spanish

C any language the person speaks

D any official language

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