

Patricia Ryan is a longtime English teacher who asks a provocative question: Is the world's focus on English preventing the spread of great ideas in other languages? In other words: What if Einstein had to pass the TOEFL? It's a passionate defense of translating and sharing ideas.

**Do you think Patricia Ryan is for or against studying English?**

**1. Listen and complete the abstracts with missing words.**

- 1) You think I've lost my way, and somebody's going to come on the stage in a minute and ..... me gently back to my seat.
- 2) But it was she who ..... learning all the Arabic words for the local plants, as well as their uses -- medicinal uses, cosmetics, cooking, herbal. How did those students get all that knowledge?
- 3) And of course, the U.K. .... from some of that lovely oil .....
- 4) So everybody wants to have an English education, ..... But if you're not a native speaker, you have to ..... a test.
- 5) They can't ..... their dream any longer, 'til they get English.
- 6) Now let me ..... it this way: if I met a monolingual Dutch speaker who had the ..... for cancer, would I stop him from entering my British University?
- 7) They translated from ..... and ..... into ....., into ....., and then it was translated on into the ..... languages of Europe and the ..... languages
- 8) And I want to ..... you that the giants upon whose shoulders today's intelligentsia stand did not have to have English, they didn't have to pass an English test.

- 9) It ..... to mind a headline I saw recently: "Education: The Great Divide." Now I ..... it, I understand why people would want to focus on English.
- 10) Let us ..... diversity. Mind your language. Use it to ..... great ideas.

**2. Match the words with their context. Watch again and check.**

empower  
feeds  
gatekeepers  
hardship

major  
morphed  
mutually  
recruited

reject  
self-fulfilling  
unprecedented

- a) But sadly, today, languages are dying at an ..... rate.
- b) When I first came out to the Gulf, I came to Kuwait in the days when it was still a ..... post. Actually, not that long ago. That is a little bit too early. But nevertheless, I was ..... by the British Council, along with about 25 other teachers.
- c) We were brought to teach English because the government wanted to modernize the country and to ..... the citizens through education.
- d) Now this is the ..... change that I've seen -- how teaching English has ..... from being a ..... beneficial practice to becoming a massive international business that it is today.
- e) Now can it be right to ..... a student on linguistic ability alone?
- f) We English teachers are the .....
- g) So the books are in English, the journals are done in English, but that is a ..... prophecy. It ..... the English requirement.

get  
arbitrary  
prohibitive  
bingo

stuck  
achieve  
far-reaching

- h) Now don't ..... me wrong; I am not against teaching English, all you English teachers out there.
- i) This system equates intelligence with a knowledge of English, which is quite .....
- j) Those fees aren't bad, they're okay," but they are ..... to so many millions of poor people. So immediately, we're rejecting them.
- k) So ....., problem solved. If you can't think a thought, you are ..... But if another language can think that thought, then, by cooperating, we can ..... and learn so much more.
- l) A simple idea, but it could have such ..... consequences.

**3. Complete the abstracts with prepositions. Listen and check.**

- 1) You think I've lost my way, and somebody's going to come .... the stage in a minute and guide me gently back .... my seat.
- 2) It's not necessary to tell you how important it is to be able to communicate ..... generations.
- 3) ..... all, the best education -- according ..... the latest World University Rankings -- is to be found in the universities of the U.K. and the U.S.
- 4) Now let me put it this way: if I met a monolingual Dutch speaker who had the cure ..... cancer, would I stop him ..... entering my British University?
- 5) And so light shone ..... the Dark Ages of Europe.
- 6) Do we really want to end ..... with 600 languages and the main one being English, or Chinese?
- 7) Case ..... point, Einstein. He, ..... the way, was considered remedial ..... school because he was, ..... fact, dyslexic.
- 8) It brings ..... mind a headline I saw recently: "Education: The Great Divide." Now I get it, I understand why people would want to focus ..... English.