

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.