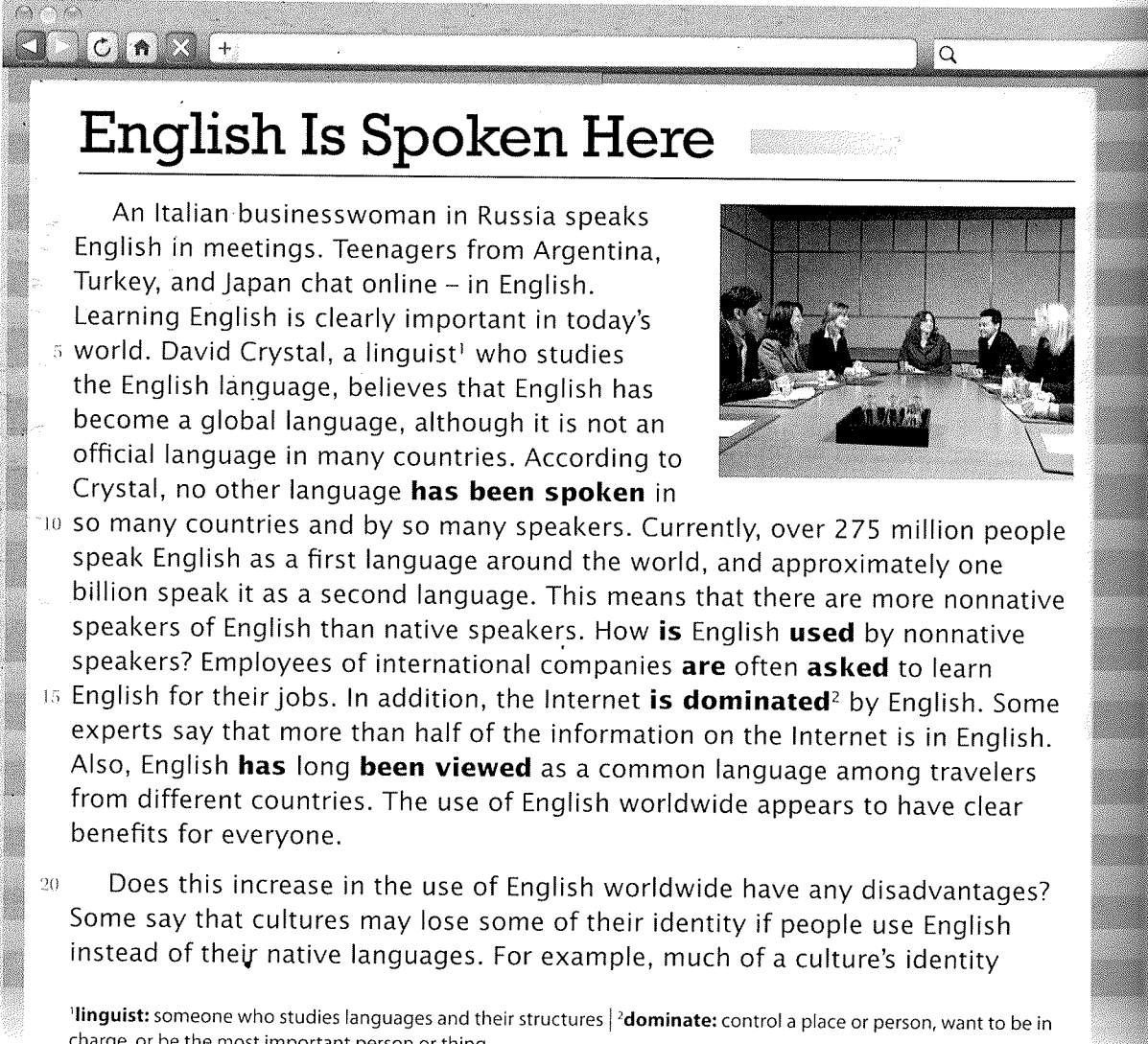



1 Grammar in the Real World

A Should everyone speak English? Why or why not? Read the web article on the use of English around the world. Why is English important to learn?



English Is Spoken Here

An Italian businesswoman in Russia speaks English in meetings. Teenagers from Argentina, Turkey, and Japan chat online – in English. Learning English is clearly important in today's world. David Crystal, a linguist¹ who studies the English language, believes that English has become a global language, although it is not an official language in many countries. According to Crystal, no other language **has been spoken** in



so many countries and by so many speakers. Currently, over 275 million people speak English as a first language around the world, and approximately one billion speak it as a second language. This means that there are more nonnative speakers of English than native speakers. How **is** English **used** by nonnative speakers? Employees of international companies **are** often **asked** to learn English for their jobs. In addition, the Internet **is dominated**² by English. Some experts say that more than half of the information on the Internet is in English. Also, English **has** long **been viewed** as a common language among travelers from different countries. The use of English worldwide appears to have clear benefits for everyone.

Does this increase in the use of English worldwide have any disadvantages? Some say that cultures may lose some of their identity if people use English instead of their native languages. For example, much of a culture's identity

¹linguist: someone who studies languages and their structures | ²dominate: control a place or person, want to be in charge, or be the most important person or thing