

総合英語 英文読解演習

English is a very important subject in schools throughout the world. There are hundreds of millions of native English speakers in the world today, and hundreds of millions more English speakers who have mastered English as a second language.

English is spoken as a native language in more countries than any other language. Those countries include Great Britain, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. There are also countries—former British colonies such as India and Singapore—where English, though not a native language, has been given the status of an official language. In India, for example, there are more speakers of English than there are in Great Britain itself! In addition, there are a large number of other countries all over the world where the study of English is pursued with great energy. The study of English is so popular in Japan, for instance, that more Oxford English dictionaries are sold each year in that country than in the United States.

What all this means, of course, is that the study of English is very important. It is essential for people who are working in international trade and business to speak English. If they do not, their opportunities for success will be much less. Ask anyone in Japan who travels abroad on business how important it is to be able to speak English. He will tell you it is essential.

