

Why is English the international language?

The fact that English is now the main international language is indisputable. In all aspects of international life – trade, science, diplomacy, education and travel – the common language is English and has been for decades. There are two main reasons why English is the current lingua franca; political history and economics.

First, one of the main reasons why English is the international language in the world today is the fact that Britain was the global superpower in the nineteenth century and America is the global superpower in the twentieth and twenty-first. For example, these two English-speaking countries were the most important countries in terms of the military and trade. By conquering and colonising so much of the world, their customs, culture and way of life became common in those parts of the world. This is why so many ex-British colonies now have English as the national language, with many of their people speaking English as a first language.

Second, a further reason for the spread and of English is economics. By being the global political and military superpower, these two countries also became the leading trading nations and many countries and territories needed to learn English in order to trade with them. The USA is currently a major trading partner with almost every other country on the planet due to the size of the consumer economy. This explains why in many countries, English is a compulsory subject in all levels at school.

In conclusion, we can see that the factors of political history and finance are the most important reasons why English is the current global language. It remains to be seen whether English will continue to be the global language of the twentieth century or whether it will be replaced by Chinese, Arabic or another language.

What are the Causes of Hunger?

It is obvious that hunger is now, and has always been, a major problem in the world. Every year, millions of people die from starvation and hunger-related diseases. Hunger has been a widespread problem for millennia and thus has a number of causes, depending on where and when it is found. There are two clear causes which stand out; geography and human greed.

First, no matter how technologically or socially advanced a society is, it is always at the mercy of nature. For example, droughts, floods, disease and famine can strike instantly and with devastating results. For instance, the famine which hit Ethiopia in the mid-1980's led to the death of over a million people from hunger and disease. In addition, the floods that periodically devastate India, Bangladesh and China cause misery, homelessness, hunger and suffering to millions every year. These are not modern phenomena – these natural disasters were occurring even before humans were on the planet.

Second, an important reason for such widespread hunger in the world today is human greed. Even though there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, human methods of social organisation mean that there will always be some who are fed and sheltered and others who are homeless and hungry. For example, every country in the world, no matter how rich or poor, has hungry people. In other words, greed and competition are common amongst human beings which create a social order with a hierarchy, in which some are hungry and some are wealthy.

In conclusion, we can see that there are two key factors which can be said to bring about hunger; geography and human greed. As long as nature is merciless and humans are greedy, the problem of hunger will always haunt us.

What are the effects of obesity?

Most people sit on their couch watching TV and eating snacks when they arrive home from work or school. Some enjoy a big meal and then eat desserts and ice cream. They think this is the best way to relax and have fun. They do not realize this is how obesity starts. Although the road that leads to obesity is fairly short and easy, obesity damages a person's health and also causes serious social and psychological problems.

The most important effect of obesity is on our health. It is a fact that the life standards of obese people are highly affected by the disease as they can't move easily or can't take part in any physical activity. In addition, many heart problems, according to doctors, have been observed in extremely overweight people. For example, obese people usually suffer from high blood pressure more than normal, or average weight people. Therefore, heart attacks are very common among obese people. Moreover, obese people don't have much chances of having a long life and they tend to die in younger ages than slimmer people. Researchers and doctors are warning us for obesity and advising us to eat right foods.

In addition to health problems, obese people face difficulties in social life, too. First of all, they feel alone among others people in society because the normal thing for a person is to be at normal weights. The media and pop culture always present thin or normal built people whereas obese people are shown only as comedians in comedy shows. Their friends make fun of them at school or at work. Their family members usually criticize them for eating too much. They can't enjoy eating at restaurants or at cafeterias. They can't buy or wear the clothes they want. So, they become very unhappy people.

To sum up, we can say that obesity makes people suffer from health and some social and psychological problems. Although the most serious effect is in the health area, the negative effects on the social and emotional life are too serious to ignore. I think we should stop and think again before sitting on our favourite couch with junk food and turn our attention to healthier activities.