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How Important English Is in Today’s World

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Do you use English in daily life? I think some of you only use English in university classes. Actually, I do not usually speak English. However, we are often told that how important English is in this world. Today, I would like to confirm the importance of English for us.

First, let’s think about the situation you might have already experienced. Have you ever spoken to by a foreigner? In many cases, he or she does not know how to get to his or her destination. In fact, I have this kind of experience, so I would share my experiences with you in the next paragraph.

On my way to the university, a woman spoke to me to ask where Waseda Station on the Toden Arakawa Line was. I got panicked because she only spoke in English and did not understand Japanese at all. Also, I only use Waseda Station on the Tozai Line, so I did not know where it was. Then, I used my smart phone to search the site. However, to make the matters worse, I am bad at reading a map.

I really regret about this incident. If I had been good at speaking English well, I would have told her that I did not know where the station was and would have asked her to look for someone who knew the location. If I was able to do that, she did not have to waste her precious time.

You might say this kind of trouble does not happen so often. However, according to statistics published by the Japan Tourism Agency[[1]](#footnote-1), the number of foreign visitors to Japan has been increasing year after year except for years of the Corona Disaster; in 2019, the number reached 31.88 million. Considering this fact, we can presume that we will have more chances to communicate with foreigners.

Next, I would like to assume the cases at work. If you start working in Japan, you might think you have few chances to engage with foreigners or to work abroad. According to a 2015 survey by “Middle Job search,”[[2]](#footnote-2) as much as 46% of 1023 respondents had worked abroad. Based on this survey, I can say there is a great possibility that you will be working abroad.

Finally, I will mention the most familiar occasions that you need to use English. Even though you have already decided to live in Japan for the rest of your life, I think you will come to want to travel abroad someday. Of course, not all the countries that you want to visit have English as their first language. Even if so, there are many English- speaking countries. Thus, if you can speak English, you are likely to be able to make yourself understood in many countries.

In conclusion, I emphasize the importance of English in expanding and enriching the possibilities of life. It is also a good idea to study other languages if you have the extra energy to keep up with the ever-changing world.

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