7C-20-2024-01-09-rev1

Is learning English important in Japan?

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In this essay, I will write about whether it is important to learn English in Japan. There are both good points and bad points to consider.

First, I will write about some good points. These days, globalization is happening very quickly, so we will be more closely related to people from other countries. English is the official language in 58 countries and 21 regions, making it the most widely spoken language in the world. If we learn English, we will be able to communicate with people from other countries without any problems. In today's global society, English is a necessary skill for working, studying, and connecting with people internationally. Second, some companies in Japan require English skills. For example, large companies like All Nippon Airways Co., Nissan Motor Co. and Rakuten Group, Inc expect their employees to speak English well. These companies often do business with people from other countries, so knowing English helps employees communicate effectively. Having strong English skills can also give you a better chance of getting a job at one of these popular companies. Third, learning English can make it easier to learn other languages. For example, if you want to learn Chinese or Spanish, knowing English can help. We use English when we learn the pronunciation of Chinese, and we use English when we write Spanish.

Next, I will write about the bad points of learning English. Some people think that there is no need to learn English because of the development of translation applications. For instance, there are Google translation, DeepL translation app and Poke Talk. These apps allow us to easily understand foreign languages and there are apps that can translate just by holding the camera over the document you want to translate. There is a surprising development in translation apps. We can have a conversation with foreigners by using these apps. Also, since English is not widely spoken in Japan, some people feel that learning English is unnecessary. According to the article, the percentage of foreigners in the total population of Japan is only 2.2 percent. We don't meet many foreigners while we are in Japan. These days, however, the number of foreigners visiting Japan is increasing. The total number of visitors in 2024 will be 33.37 million, which is the largest number ever. We may have to use English more often in the future.

In conclusion, while there are fewer opportunities to use English in Japan and translation apps are helpful, I believe learning English is still important. Because of the globalizing society, we may have to work with people from other countries, and also the number of visitors is increasing, so we need to learn English. Although there are translation apps, there is no guarantee that they won't make a mistake, so I think we should learn English so that we don't have to rely on translation apps. These are the reasons why I think it is important to learn English even if you live in Japan.

【2025/01/14 10:04 本文497語】