

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE: A KEY WITHIN ONE'S REACH

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Having been one of the most dominant languages in the world, the English language continues to showcase its significance in today's world. It is essential to learn, understand, and speak this language since it is used predominantly in business and education.

Although English has its complexities, the majority of the people still choose the master it as their second language. Understanding and conversing in English has been very advantageous; many platforms, may it be websites, social media platforms, various mobile apps, or even advertisements and billboards, are mostly expressed in the English language. Hence, the ability to understand even the simplest form of the language can easily interlink you with the world. Even the media from several countries are adopting the practice of using English as their medium in reporting and releasing information to the public so that it would be accessible to all audiences regardless of citizenship.

Lerma Mondrano (2015) emphasized that being knowledgeable in English is a key factor for a better career, a huge advantage in terms of knowledge, status in society, and better communication in the entire world; this fact has been known by most people. It dominates the international media which creates an interlinked world since it is the essential carrier of language, politics that regulates the law, and businesses which most the companies used to compete in the global market.

In the Philippines, the K-12 Curriculum is aiming to produce globally competitive learners and one of the first steps to achieve this goal is to educate the students in the English language. After mastering their Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) from Grades 1-3, young learners are being exposed to English as their

medium for most of their subjects. This is furthered in their secondary education and the newly implemented Senior High School, and will definitely be integrated into the tertiary level, regardless of the program they choose to be in.

Half of the percentage of the Philippine population uses the English language in communicating in their daily transactions, in households, in classroom settings, at work, and in casual conversations with their family and friends. This just goes to show that many Filipinos are knowledgeable in the English language. Indeed, the country is among the few nations considered great speakers of the English language.

However, some learners encounter difficulties in learning the English language given its complexities in its various branches such as semantics, syntax, pragmatics, and many more. But once the language has been used and practiced regularly, learners will soon grasp the conversational English that will further develop into formal English, Business English, etc. depending on their situation and purpose.

Accordingly, teachers should work hand-in-hand to ensure that learners can fully comprehend using the English language. The basics of the language must be well-explained so as not to confuse learners at the beginning of their English language journey. Its benefits should also be reiterated and the opportunities it opens. They must be continuously encouraged to learn and acquire the language for it is an edge that will eventually serve them well.

English is a key that can be used by anyone once given ample opportunity to learn and embrace it as a second language.

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