

## Just Speak English

The United States has long since claimed itself as the world's melting pot, where all are embraced within its culture. However, recent trends in the diversification of America's lingual palette has resulted in many native English speakers not feeling welcome, because they are not able to understand the people around them.

It's approximated that over 430 languages are spoken in the United States, originating from all around the globe, but not a single one has been designated the official national language, because one language is no lesser than the other. Yet English is the predominantly spoken language in the United States, as it is spoken by nearly 80% of the population, whether they are raised to speak it or learned to do so later in life. Nonetheless, the remaining 20% do not accommodate the majority when speaking their native languages, resulting in miscommunication, confusion, and frustration, as well as the controversial spending of resources to provide translations and education to accommodate those who don't speak English.

Non-English speakers say that the fact they don't speak English doesn't invalidate their voices, and that resources to accommodate them should be routinely provided at little personal cost, even though their inability puts a massive financial strain on both the government and private interests. Legislation was even passed, forcing business and public buildings to provide these resources, but that legislation does vary from state to state, and isn't routinely enforced or interpreted.

There are many tools and aids out there designed to overcome this problem, such as online translators as well as curriculums to teach English through organizations or independently, for low to no cost associated with them, yet even the widespread use of these tools are objected to because they are not always accurate or consistently able to perform. These accommodations are also criticized for being predominantly used by English speakers for their own personal use, rather than deferring to non-English speakers to ensure equal and fair access.

In summary, whether the United States is a country that speaks English, or an English-speaking country is a complex issue that continues to evolve, but does not change the fact that communication remains a necessary form of access that is withheld from a significant portion of the population.