

-- How many people speak English worldwide? --

English is one of the most widely used languages in the world. Recent estimates suggest that over 410 million people speak English as their first language, with possibly some 520 million speaking it as a second language.

America has the largest number of English speakers - over 250 million speak the language as a mother tongue.

English is an official language in India, alongside Hindi, and some 3,000 English newspapers are published throughout the country.

English is also the favoured language of the world's major airlines and international commerce.

Over 80 per cent of the world's electronically stored information is in English and two-thirds of the world's scientists read in English.

English is an official language, or has a special status in a great number of countries.

If the rest of the world isn't talking English, they're borrowing English words to add to their own language: the Japanese go on a 'pikuniku' (picnic), Italians program their computers with 'il software', Germans talk about 'ein Image Problem' and Czechs say 'ahoy!' for 'hello' - a greeting traditionally used by English sailors, which is interesting as there's no sea in the Czech Republic!

Word list:

widely used= széleskörben használt

to estimate (ige) = felbecsül

estimate (főnév) = becslés, felbecslés

mother tongue= anyanyelv

favoured = kedvelt, előnyben részesített