

industries and recognized as being standard. The call center phenomenon has stimulated a huge expansion of internet-related activity, establishing the future of India as a cyber-technological super-power. Modern communications, videos, journals and newspapers on the internet use English and have made 'knowing English' indispensable.

The prevailing view seems to be that unless students learn English, they can only work in limited jobs. Those who do not have basic knowledge of English cannot obtain good quality jobs. They cannot communicate efficiently with others, and cannot have the benefit of India's rich social and cultural life. Men and women who cannot comprehend and interpret instructions in English, even if educated, are unemployable. They cannot help with their children's school homework everyday or decide their revenue options of the future.

A positive attitude to English as a national language is essential to the integration of people into Indian society. There would appear to be virtually no disagreement in the community about the importance of English language skills. Using English you will become a citizen of the world almost naturally. English plays a dominant role in the media. It has been used as a medium for inter-state communication and broadcasting both before and since India's independence. India is, without a doubt, committed to English as a national language. The impact of English is not only continuing but increasing.

Exercise 1. General Comprehension. Circle the correct answer.

1. According to the writer, the Indian constitution recognizes

a) 22 official languages	b) Hindi as the national language
c) 2 national, official languages	d) 2 national languages

2. English's status as a lingua franca is helped by
 - a) its status in northern India
 - b) the fact that it is widely understood in urban centers
 - c) it shares many grammatical similarities with Hindi
 - d) the fact that people from the south speak languages not much related to Hindi

3. In paragraph 3, 'toehold' means that English

a) dominated India	b) changed the names of some cities in India
c) has had a presence in India	d) has been in India longer than any other language.

4. Hindi-speaking teachers

a) might well be heard using English	b) only use English
c) only use English for instructions	d) do not use English

5. In paragraph eight, it says 'the prevailing view', which suggests that

a) the view is correct	b) the view is held by the majority
c) the view is incorrect	d) the view is held by the minority

Exercise 2. Say whether the following are True/False: if false, write the correct answer

1. English and Hindi are equally spread in the south of India.
2. Indians perceive English as a positive and necessary presence in their country.
3. The spread of information and technology industries and the media has sanctioned English a standard language.