## WHY ENGLISH?

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- Communication
- Information and Research
- Career Development
- Emigration
- Family and Friends
- Study

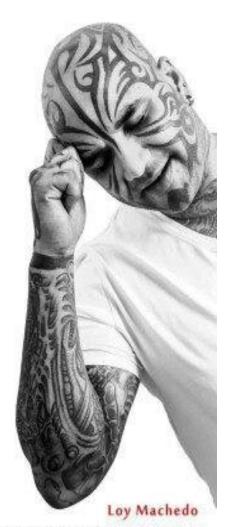
- Studying abroad
- Secret communication
- Requirement
- Culture
- Food
- Challenge

- Find a spouse
- Hobby
- Understand others better
- Make new friends
- Understand how others think
- ?
- ?

- Read the conversation. What was the misunderstanding over the underlined question?
- A: What about going down to Kg Batu?
- **S**: That should be fun, shouldn't it? Yes, you could. You can ride right along the edge, you know, without having to keep to the main road. That should be great, actually. You could do that.
- A: Is it very rough down there, though?
- **S:** Well, there are no cobbles as far as I can remember. Have you tried riding on the cobbles?
- A: No, but I was thinking rather more... rough in terms of the people.
- **S:** Oh I see. Well, I don't think so. I don't know. Parts of it are quite poor, particularly the Leta area.
- (adapted from Brown and Yule 1983: 93)

## Twenty-one reasons why English is Hard to Learn.

- 1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2. The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3. The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- Since there was no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10. I did not object to the object.
- 11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12. There was a row among the oarsmen on how to row.
- 13. They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14. The buck does funny things when does are present.
- 15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
- 19. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 21. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?...



## **WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN**

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes, But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes. One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese, Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice; But the plural of house is houses, not hice. The plural of man is always men, But the plural of pan is never pen.

If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet, And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek? If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

If the singular's *this* and the plural is *these*, Should the plural of *kiss* be ever called *keese*?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren, But though we say mother, we never say methren. Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him; But imagine the feminine . . . she, shis, and shim!

- ANONYMOUS