



BRITISH COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH COMMUNICATION CAMPS
ENGLAND FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH

ENCLOSURE

A French scientist coming to Vienna for a conference on human genetics or Italian designer negotiating with prospective clients in Stockholm or Polish tourist chatting with local shopkeepers is likely to hear their all communicate successfully in "English", but which "English"? Well, choose, for that it is not the language you hear in that street and could catch on either as American business, but rather as one of "English", with enough of common sense to make it viable as a means of communication.

In fact, "English" has acquired a dual form - "Englishes" - to refer to any of the varieties of English spoken around the world, such as Australian English, Canadian English, South African English, Cockney English, American English and, to put them all somewhat better, British English.

The international spread of English is now taken for granted, but what is acknowledged are the implications of this spread, especially in terms of the "togetherness" that has resulted from it. Actually, only conventionalized and standard American English has remained the dominant variety of the language.

Nevertheless, there are various attempts to smooth out the various forms of international English. The intention is to remove the distinction between British and American spelling, the adjustment of which at the moment takes up as much of our time as needfully.

At the moment the dictionary has reached the stage of being as that for international purposes other systems of spelling will do, "cure" as "cure" will still be printed as correct, however, we haven't yet reached the point where we can expect that other systems will do, but we have to consider whether within the framework.

The concept of international English is a relatively new because there is not a conventional speaker of the variety, just varieties of regional varieties which happen to meet in an international forum, so it seems only as a slight modification to each particular regional variety, to create a number of English speakers divide their time into their own way - some by travel, by school, by migration to international organizations - perhaps the sense of an international community will grow stronger and the need as a form of sharing of an international community will become more apparent.

However, perhaps not yet.