Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?
Posted by NukeIt15 on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:34:37 GMT
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Having a standard language make sense; it makes everything run smoother when you don't have to translate everything. Since the vast majority of people in the US speak English as their first language, it makes just as much sense that English should be that language. I never got what the big deal was in the first place- most countries in the world today have designated an official language. That doesn't mean other languages are banned from all use, just that one will be chosen for government and business use for the sake of convenience and streamlining. There's nothing racist or bigoted about that- everybody has to know it, bar none. This is coming from someone who is semi-fluent in Spanish, by the way, at least in reading and writing.

On the other hand, I do not think that learning English should be a prerequisite for citizenship. That would be a case of over-regulation; if all of the available services (and, for that matter, the immigration paperwork) were already in English, they'd have to learn the language anyway. To give one example of a potential problem with making English fluency a requirement for citizenship, what happens when a citizen marries a non-citizen who doesn't speak English fluently enough to pass a test yet? What happens if a child is born to citizen parents while out of country, then raised without learning English? Are those people still eligible, or will their citizenship be revoked or denied?