Globish The World Over

© 2009 Jean-Paul Nerrière and David Hon

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Table of Contents

Part 1 The Problem with Learning English
Chapter 1 Many, Many Languages
Chapter 2 Esperanto vs...the World?
Chapter 3 Thinking Globally
Chapter 4 The Native Speakers' Edge is Their Problem
Chapter 5 The English Learners’ Problem is Their Edge
Chapter 6 The Value of a MiddleGround
Chapter 7 The Beginnings of Globish
Chapter 8 Is Globish More Useful than English?
Chapter 9 A Tool and... A Mindset
Chapter 10 Globish in Many Places

Part 2 Elements of Globish
Chapter 11 How much is “enough”? 
Chapter 12 Is Globish the Same as English?
Chapter 13 How Globish is Different from English
Chapter 14 Natural Language Has “Experience”
Chapter 15 A Closed System: Globish Limitations
Chapter 16 1500 Basic Words
Chapter 17 1500 Basic Globish Words Father 5000
Chapter 18 Cooking with Words
Chapter 19 Say “No” to Most Figurative Language
Chapter 20 Globish “Best Practices”
Chapter 21 Critical Sounds for Global Understanding
Chapter 22 Globish in Texting?
Chapter 23 When Globish Arrives

Appendix 140
Obama’s Inauguration Address in English & Globish
3 of 137 Pieces in World Press
Partial Resources
Meet the Writers

(Web Sites with additional Globish Information)
Today, the communication problem is the same. Just the scale is different. A century ago, their world was their country. Now their world is.... much more. Most people now speak a local language which is often their national language. Now they must communicate to the whole globe.

In this world, teachers say there are more than 6000 languages. In 45 countries, English is an official language. But not everyone speaks English, even where it is an official language. Only 12% of the global world has English as a mother tongue. For 88% of us, it is not our first language, our mother tongue.

We know that only 4% of international communication is between native speakers from different English-speaking nations - like Americans and Australians. So 96% of the international English communication takes place with at least one non-native speaker.

Next sample will be from another part of the book.
because they are the easiest words they both know. Of course, these are not always those of the native speakers, who have so many more words to choose from.

The idea of Globish came from this observation: limitations are not always a problem. In fact, they can be useful, if you understand them. Jean-Paul Nerrière could see that “if we can make the limitations exactly the same, it will be as if there are no limitations at all”. He decided to record a limited set of words and language that he observed in most non-English speakers. He then suggested that people from various mother tongues can communicate better if they use these carefully chosen limitations. Globish is that “common ground.”

This theory of limitations is not as strange as it might seem at first. Most human activities have some limitations.

The World Cup is one of the most-watched competitions in the world, because its set of “limitations” makes it a great game for everyone. In

**Next sample will be from another part of the book.**
Strangely, many native English speakers still believe they can do all things better than non-native speakers just because they speak better English. How long will it take for them to understand that they are wrong? They have a problem that they are not able to understand. They do not see that many non-native speakers simply cannot understand them. This does not mean the native speaker’s English is bad. It means that their communication is bad; sometimes they do not even attempt to make their communication useful to everyone. Often they don’t know how.

We want everyone to be able to speak to and understand everyone. There is a middle ground, but the native English speakers are not the ones drawing the borders. And because you may not be able to say this to a native speaker, who might not be able to understand – we will say it here.

To belong to the international community, a native English speaker must:

- **understand**…. what is explained in this book,
- **accept**…. that it is the fact of a new world which has many new powers that will be as strong as the English-speaking countries,
- decide **to change** with this new reality, in order to still be a member.
Whenever a native English speaker acts as if you are the stupid one, **please give them this book**. If they choose to take no notice of their problem, they will be left out of communication. They will be left out of activities with others – worldwide – if they do not learn to “limit” the way they use their language. English speakers need to limit both spoken and written English for communication with non-native English speakers. In short, they too need to “learn” Globish. It is not an easy exercise, but it can be done. Some of this book will help them.

**Globish has a special name**

It is very important that the Globish name is **not** “English for the World” or even “Simple English.” If its name were **any kind** of English, the native English speakers would say. “OK, we won. Now all you have to do is speak better English.” Without the name Globish, they will not understand it is a special kind of English, and it is no longer “their” English. Most native English speakers who understand this should decide they like it. Hopefully they will say: “Now I understand that I am very lucky. Now my language will be changed a little for the rest of the world. Let me do my best, and they can do their best, and we will meet in the middle.”

So **Globish** is a word that tells native English speakers – and non-native speakers – that Globish has a different meaning.

**Next sample will be from another part of the book.**
But the question will always be asked: “What does “enough” mean? What is “enough?” “Not enough” means that you cannot communicate comfortably with anyone, in English or Globish. You may not know enough words or – more likely – you do not say words with the right stresses, or you may not know simple sentence forms and verb forms. So how much is “too much?” “Too much” makes many students learning English feel they will “never be good enough” in English.

The Council of Europe offers a Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (C.E.F.R.) that offers a situational test for users of all second languages. By their standard, the best user of Globish would be an Independent User (Their category called “B1”) THIS IS GIVEN EXACTLY IN C.E.F.R.’s ENGLISH:

Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.

Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar, or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

That is the test for “enough” for their B1 - Independent User. It would be enough for the Globish user too, if we added this:

Next sample will be from another part of the book.
Also allowed are (a) Names and Titles - (capitalized), (b) international words like *police* and *pizza*, (c) technical words like *noun* and *grammar* in this book. Only common agreement between speakers can decide between them, of course, what other words to allow beyond these 1500 Globish words. If one person cannot understand an additional word, then its use is not recommended. (See Chapters 16 and 17)

**Globish uses mostly Active Voice**

Globish speakers should understand Passive and Conditional forms. But it is usually best for Globish users to create messages in Active Voice if possible. Who or what is doing the action must be clear in Globish. English may say:

*The streets were cleaned in the morning.*

But Globish would say (See Chapter 18):

*The workmen cleaned the streets in the morning.*

**Globish pronunciation has fewer necessary sounds than traditional English**

Globish sounds should be learned with each word. Most important: Globish must use syllable stress VEry corRECTly.
the word *workman*, we can just say “What kind of man? A *workman*.” If the words are only one syllable, you stress the first syllable. Here are some of those *combined words*:

- work + man = workman
- bed + room = bedroom
- class + room = classroom
- day + time = daytime
- week + end = weekend
- home + work = homework
- man + kind = mankind
- air + plane = airplane
- street + car = streetcar

**Adding a few letters to the front or the back of a word**

All of them are called *Affixes*. There are two basic kinds of *affixes*. The ones on the front of the word called *Prefixes*. The ones on the end of the words are called *Suffixes*.

**Next sample will be from another part of the book.**
be at broadly-understood level. If you have a) a small number of most-used words, like the Globish 1500, and b) simple grammatical forms, you can easily use **texting**. The limitations of Globish can easily fit **texting** as it is happening now.

> hi joe, OMG! i cnt blv this. u r rght. thats gr8! so stephano hs invited us to go to italy this summer! cool. and it means we cd visit many oder countries and all of our frnds over there. im so excited. lets meet and talk abt it asap.

But are people just “lazy”, **texting** when they should write out whole words? Not really….

**Time and Space**

Most of the important discoveries are somehow about Time and Space. When people are “chatting” online, or using instant messaging between computers or mobile phones, they demand **speed** of answering back. Why? Because “chat” is real-time, like being on the phone, and young people don’t want to appear stupid because they seem slow to answer. Picture two girls in the back corners of a school classroom, texting on their mobiles to friends in other classes. Watch their eyes roll if some friend is slow to answer back. It is a talk – like a face-to-face talk – and the more it “moves” like a real talk between people, the quicker the response that is **expected**. That is why many answers back are simply “K”, or “CU” or “CIAO”.

"7: Sample: Last parts of Globish The World Over"

#7 (Sample: Last parts of Globish The World Over)
There are also tools to help with the items that you would usually have in talking face-to-face. If you want something to be funny, people can usually tell by the smile on your face. That is why the “emoticons” like …😊 and …:@ now appear from most texting when the symbols …:( and …:)( are put in. And most Internet users know (LOL) for “Laughing Out Loud.” Means that you are sharing something you think is funny. If some people didn’t see (LOL) they won’t know what you said was meant to be funny. Also these tools help give a quick response, and that is part of Timing. Or Time…

hi jack, u see? lets meet 2nite. we dnt hv time to waste. lets make a gr8 plan and get bk w it to stephano so he cn prepare eg. i cd b at ur place by 7.

Space Means Cost

As for space, there are severe data limitations on some mobile phone texting. Some of us remember old films where news comes of events far away via a telegram. People were charged by the word then. Their messages were much like what you might see on a mobile phone now. “Home 7 pm train Friday. Miss you. George.”

Cost! Cost! Cost!

In much of the world…160 characters are allowed for 1 message costing about 25 cents. If the message is even 161 characters, you have to pay for another message! Good Texting makes them short…and understood.

Just the viewing size on some mobile phones, and the difficulty of entering text, makes people use the shortened
What they say about Globish The World Over

"I must congratulate you on GLOBISH THE WORLD OVER. It's a pioneering text of great importance, full of enthralling insights for native and non-native English users alike." -- Robert McCrum, author, The Story of English and Literary Editor, London Observer.

"...My Money's On Globish"

"...One real contender to be the new lingua franca of the Net era is Globish: it reduces the 260,000 words of the English language down to a 1,500 word lexicon. Globish is easier to learn for non-English speakers and fits perfectly into the fast-paced, micro-blog culture that is naturally forming around the Net."  Tom Hayes, (Author, Jump Point: How Network Culture is Revolutionizing Business)

Obviously, linguists and businesspeople alike recognise the need of some kind of international language. The dynamism of the international workplace and the changing role and status of English for international business require it. I salute the in-depth overview of the socio-political, psycholinguistic and pedagogic arguments in favour of adopting Globish. The differentiation made between Globish as a language for communication and the speakers’ L1 as a language for identification is crucial in this era of lost and regained ethnic and linguistic identities.

Perhaps another idea worth mentioning would be that Globish not only opens a door to global understanding, but also creates a feeling of community and group identity in the global village."

Monica Hoogstad, Business English Coach, The English Channel

"I think this important book is just what is needed to help Anglophones, in particular, understand that Globish is not about bad English. As I see it, Globish is a way of helping non-Anglophones with a measured pathway into good English. I like that that the book builds on recognised principles of English-learning by being in Globish..."

Dr Liddy Nevile, La Trobe University, Melbourne
….and about Globish…

"Globish… teaches us that the more English becomes an international language, the more the ownership of the language will move away from the Anglo-Saxons."

Iman Kurdi, Arab News, December 23rd, 2006

"Since the end of World War II, the rise of a 'world-English' has been inevitable. But if Nerrière is formally codifying it, then Globish will gain status. This is a new thing and very interesting."

Jack Chambers, linguist, University of Toronto

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Side-by-Side Translations of Globish The World Over

Chinese                           Hungarian                        Japanese
Translation by Luo Xi                    Translation by                             Translation by
Dlugosz Krisztina                  Akiko Ishibashi                    Jan Askhoj
And one more book! The first Globish literature....

NOT QUITE SHAKESPEARE is a set of 9 short, one-act plays for use in Globish-English Conversation Classes, for students to read in groups and even perform. Helps with pronunciation, sentence stress, and conversational rhythms for the intermediate to advanced student of Globish-English.