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A Group of Colleg Students I believe that a successful education requires both maths and English. Maths is an important subject to master because it helps us understand the world around us, while English teaches us how to communicate effectively with others. The truth is that both subjects prepare students for their future in different, equally important ways. What are the differences between math and English? English is an international language spoken and used all over the world. Whereas mathematics is the language of sciences, it is also used in everyday life. Even though both English and mathematics are considered languages, they are two totally distinct disciplines. Read on to find out the benefits of both English and mathematics and the similarities and differences between them, and what makes maths and English essential components of a well-rounded education. You might also enjoy reading: 9 Best Novels for ESL Adults and Drastically Improve your English Skills. Maths is a fundamental part of our everyday lives. Without an understanding of basic maths, we would be unable to make decisions regarding finances or measure distances when traveling. We would also have difficulty doing simple tasks such as baking, reading recipes, or following directions on a map. I believe that maths is necessary for higher-level thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making, which prepares students for the real world. Maths can also help foster an appreciation for science and technology which has become increasingly important in today's society. By learning the principles behind mathematics, students can use these skills to understand better the complex systems that drive modern technology, such as computer programming or engineering designs. Ultimately, mastering maths gives students more career opportunities because employers need workers who understand numbers and data analysis. Contrary to what most people believe, English does more than just teach us how to read and write; it helps us learn how to think critically about the information we consume by teaching us how to identify patterns, ask questions, and draw conclusions from what we read or hear. In addition, English also encourages creative thinking through writing which prepares students for future jobs that require excellent communication skills, such as sales, marketing, or management roles. English is also an essential language for those looking to pursue higher education since it is used in many university courses or lectures around the world, regardless of what country you live in or the language you speak at home. Not only will learning English help increase your knowledge base, but it will also develop your analytical skills, which can be applied to any field you might choose later on down the line. Maths and English actually have quite a bit in common. I believe that both maths and English require an understanding of basic grammar and vocabulary, although I know this is expressed differently in each subject. For example, in maths, grammar is expressed through equations, while in English, it is expressed through sentences. Furthermore, I also believe that both maths and English also rely heavily on problem-solving skills; students must think critically about how to solve a problem or answer a question correctly. And more importantly, both maths and English require a lot of practice; without consistent practice, you won't get very far in either subject. Student Learning English and Mathematics Despite some commonalities between maths and English, there are also several key differences that set these two disciplines apart from one another. Maths typically relies heavily on numbers, while English relies heavily on words; this makes for very different learning styles for each subject. In addition, mathematics tends to focus more on quantitative reasoning, while reading focuses more on qualitative reasoning (not all texts are equal). And more importantly, I believe that math tends to be more formulaic, while writing is much less structured; it all depends on the individual text or project. Moreover, English is just a communication medium and can be replaceable by other languages (as important as English). English is not the only language in the world. Different societies have gotten along perfectly fine without speaking a word of English. On the other hand, Mathematics plays some role in almost everything. We use mathematics in every modern convenience, engineering, and design. Math drives the world's economy, making it truly global. And I believe that math is essential to modern everyday life. Even though mathematics class appears to be the most important class during our school years, English plays a more significant role in our lives. The truth is that English is not just about grammar and reading but also listening and understanding, which are crucial for excelling in mathematics and everything in life. Also, the importance of both English and mathematics depends on specific situations. For example, maths will be a better choice if you want to model information accurately. On the other hand, English is better than math for everything we do in life. For instance, you can't describe feelings with math. Both maths and English play an important role in helping students gain knowledge that they will use throughout their lives. Whether it is understanding complex mathematical models or improving your communication skills through writing essays or reports, I believe that both subjects are equally important when trying to succeed academically as well as professionally later on down the line. If you are a student looking to give yourself the best chance possible for success later on down the line, I encourage you to put equal effort into both maths and English. Recent research (such as a 2014 comparative study by Jo-Anne LeFevre) has suggested that students from an Asian-language background have a greater mathematical ability than English-speaking students of the same age. This phenomenon has led some to speculate that there are intrinsic advantages to learning Math in languages other than English – the Wall Street Journal has even written a recent article on the subject.This post will outline the basic theory of this line of thought before offering some potential alternative explanations for this ability gap. If you're involved in the translation process, then hopefully this post will help you appreciate the differences that language could make to learning math. Why English is supposedly bad for learning math? The main reason why some people think that English is bad for learning Math, is that the English language presents a much broader scope of words to describe number units. In fact, English has more than twenty-four different names for number units, requiring students to memorise more words to perform arithmetic, and obscuring the fact that the number system is based on units of ten.Explore the best languages to learn for your future. Your proficiency in English over math might not just be about your teachers; it could also be the language itself. English's diverse numerical vocabulary and structure could be making math harder for you, compared to languages with more straightforward numerical systems. This linguistic complexity requires more memorization and can obscure the base-ten system, potentially hindering your mathematical learning process. Why are Asian languages better for learning Math? In contrast to the English language, Asian languages such as Chinese only have nine words to describe number units. For example, the English word 'thirty-one' is literally 'three-ten-one' in Chinese.The advantage of only having words for nine number units, so the theory says, is that the Chinese language makes it obvious that the numerical system is based on units of ten. It also goes without saying that having to remember fewer words will allow students to focus more on performing the arithmetic and less on recalling the names of different number units.In Asian schools, the 'make-a-ten' arithmetic strategy is taught, whereby students focus on making the numbers into a ten first, and then adding the remaining figures to that ten. For example, the equation '9 + 5' would be interpreted as '9 + 1 + 4'. Asian students would subtract 1 from the 5 and add it to the 9 to make 10, leaving them with 'ten-four'. This strategy is helpful when dealing with more advanced equations, and doesn't require the student to memorise words such as 'twenty, thirty, forty etc.'. Does speaking a certain language really give a mathematical advantage? Although it may seem that the simplicity of Asian languages provides a greater advantage for learning mathematics, it's possible that other factors could account for the achievement gap between English and Asian-language speaking students.For example, there are significant cultural differences that could contribute towards the achievement gap: Chinese parents could be more willing to use math in daily life than English speaking cultures, and number-based games are more popular in Asian cultures than they are in English speaking ones.Moreover, the potential for significant differences between the Asian and English education systems shouldn't be overlooked, and could be another potential explanation for the ability gap. For instance, the former might place a priority on teaching math from an early age, whereas the latter might prioritise other academic subjects.Regardless of the potential for other explanatory factors, there does seem to be an advantage to having fewer words to describe number units. However, whether or not that makes one language inherently better than another for learning math is still up for debate.Ready for a challenge? Explore the world's hardest languages to learn.What do you think? Feel free to leave a comment below.Ofer Tirosh is the founder and CEO of Tomedes, a language technology and translation company that supports business growth through a range of innovative localization strategies. He has been helping companies reach their global goals since 2007.Share: Who will win: Shakespeare vs. Euler!Some people are more naturally gifted in English than maths, and some, like me, are very firmly in the opposite camp. It is obviously super important that we have this variation- it's good to have people who interpret information in different ways, but the divide created in our school system that sends people so far one way or the other has always bothered me.I've always loved reading, and I clearly enjoy writing, yet I hated high school English with an extreme passion not matched by any of the desire-fuelled characters in the books we had to analyse. How could they turn something I enjoyed so much into something so boring? How could they make me hate those authors I used to admire so much? How had I become so stuck every time I tried to write anything they ever asked me to?Every high school student's dreamMaths on the other hand was always there to keep me sane. When they gave me essays, I did exponentials. When they asked for character analyses, I gave them calculus and algebra.Even when maths got tricky, there was always just an extra formula to focus on to fix the function, another concept to cover to clarify the calculus (yeah that's right year 8 English, I finally learnt to alliterate!).Languages are tools for communication which makes maths just as much of a language as English. It's the language of patterns, a way to link ideas that have no obvious correlation in English. It's the language of nature, the language of commerce, of quantification and estimation.Yet here I am, writing, not in maths, but in English. Maybe I'll write something in maths later, but I have a feeling it won't be appreciated as deeply as one with words that our brains are so well trained to make sense of.Those of us with 'maths brains' are still taught to use English whilst those who don't understand the linearity of lines can drop maths after year 10. I like to think that my literary skills are up to scratch even though the idea of writing an essay makes me feel mildly ill.In school we get marked on our ability to describe a theme in a book written in a version of our language that we no longer use, yet I wasn't taught how to write a cover letter or the etiquette of an email. We aren't required to know Pythagorus's theorem past the age of 16, because 'maths is not a vital skill'. People tell me the maths we learn in school is not 'life maths'. And maybe parts of that are true, maybe you won't need to understand partial differentiation for your job, but I sure as hell won't need to know how to write an essay on the conflicts of a fictional family for mine!I did all three maths offered at a year 12 level, and yes the hardest of the three does not have many uses if you don't plan on being an engineer, but it astounds me that the basic maths is not compulsory. That was 'life maths'. And many might say that even the intermediate one was not necessary, but I disagree. Exponentials can teach you about population growth of bacteria, while integration can help you calculate the required volume of water for your irregular shaped pool.And maybe you don't plan on studying bacteria populations, or you like your pools regular shaped, and you don't plan on doing engineering, but don't you want to understand why you're feeling ill from an infection, or feel confident that you could have whatever shaped pool you like? Isn't that still, in a way, 'life maths'?English can be beautiful and exciting. Reading a good book will always bring me joy, but is that not equivalent to that experienced when you look for all the patterns you can find in Pascal's triangle, or the properties of a circle, or the Fibonacci sequences in nature? Maybe you don't know what these things are, or have simply never stopped to appreciate them.Did you know spirals in nature often follow the Fibonacci sequence?English is important but so is maths, and I don't think anyone is just meant for one or the other. Just because you excelled at one in school and failed the other, that doesn't mean you can't do either. If I based everything about English on what school taught me, I would never have picked up another book, I wouldn't have bothered to start this blog, I wouldn't have experienced the exhilaration of being able to write what I want to write about. If you think you've found nothing you like in maths, I promise you, you're just looking in the wrong spot. If there's a place in English for me, there has to be a place in maths for you. By Dashrit Pandher Now we've all heard the debate about what's better, English or Math. Well, I'm here to settle that debate: it's Math. No, no I don't want to hear any complaints. Math is hands down the superior subject, and I'm here to tell you why. In math, you know if you have the right answer or not. There's one answer, or a variation of one answer. In English you don't know if you have the right answer, if there even is a right answer. For math there's a formula you can follow, and then BOOM! You have an answer. In English, where's the formula? There aren't any! Furthermore, in English it's all subjective, so depending on who's reading your essay or literary piece, your work could be garbage to them. Math, however, is objective, so no matter who looks at your work, if it's right, it's right. Math is like a system of nature in and of itself, made of multiple patterns. Once you understand one section of the system, it can help you understand the other sections. Some may argue that it's a bunch of numbers and letters mashed together that don't make sense. It's not. Math is numbers and letters combined together, but they make sense if you follow the patterns and if you learn section by section. Once you learn a section, and recognize a pattern, it won't change, but that can't be said about English. English is just mashing together a bunch of different letters and words in hope of conveying your idea in a way that makes sense to other people. In English, a single word can have more than one meaning, and those meanings change based on the surrounding words. There are no established patterns or sections in English, so how do you learn it, without losing your mind? A peer once said, math is like the Eiffel tower. It's beautiful, but sometimes it's hard to get around or understand. Math is beautiful, I agree, but I have to disagree with it being hard to get around or understand. Sure, sometimes concepts in math aren't the easiest to grasp, but with a bit of perseverance you can get it. Once you get the formula or the basics of a concept, you can apply that same idea to other concepts. Math builds upon itself. However in English, it changes from literary to literary piece. The way one might analyze a poem is worlds different than how one may analyze a story. Also, math gives us so many wonderful things like phones, computers, buildings, and so many more things. Would you want to live in a world without the amazing creations brought to us by math? When I visualize math, I see red ink on a white paper. Now red ink often means you did something wrong and it's terrifying, but that is not always the case. Sometimes the red ink is a praise given to you by your teacher about your amazing work. Similarly, math looks daunting, but it's not. It's a former football coach who looks big and intimidating, but is really just a giant sweetheart. Math is the type of person who laughs at his own jokes, and then says he'll shut up because he doesn't think anyone thinks he's funny. News flash, everyone loves their jokes. Yes, sometimes math looks scary, and it can be tough, but it immediately feels bad and apologizes by showing you shortcuts to solve the problem. Math is the teacher who plays music in the beginning of class, and gets flustered when he's caught dancing. Now what do you think of, when you think of English? You think of an old man who speaks about as fast as a snail. You think of someone who pauses more times than there are stars in the night sky. English is the teacher who answers simple questions with an hour long lecture, that is completely off base. All in all, math is hands down the better subject between the two. Math is a comforting soul, that can look scary, but it's really a dork who wouldn't hurt a fly. The Reason why English OUTRANKS Math By Jayden Barnes Since the beginning of human intelligence, there has been ultimately one type of skill that we as a species have been able to master: words. With the formation of speech, the human race has been able to evolve further and further into what we are now, the top tier species. Yet, through this skill, many others have been created. One of these being math, the subject that has rivaled its very creator since the very day it was born. Many people say that math is a superior subject, yet there are many reasons pointing to why this statement is flat out false. With school being the main battleground for this war, we turn to what perks English has. With the inclusion of books, English is everywhere in a school. We saw it when we used to walk the halls, in the textbooks we had under our desks, even on our phones when we snuck peaks thinking the teachers weren't looking. But what didn't we see on all of those? math equations. The reason behind this is plain simple; only psychopaths would rather read math equations on a wall. Now, I can acknowledge that the enemy, math, may have one or two things that could top English, but even those qualities could be seen as a downfall. For one, math is easier to understand (there aren't any multiple meanings when it comes to symbols). This is downplayed though by the fact that English has much more mystery through these multiple meanings. Yes, math does require brainpower and written out explanations, but it lacks the compassion and depth behind a simple phrase such as "Nothing beautiful asks for attention." When you visualize English as a person, I can say with full certainty that most people think of an aged, wise man. You could say English would be the type of person that expresses his emotions with his hands, pausing when most needed to search for the right words. They might come across as unapproachable at first, but as soon as you talk to him, he open up and become a warm, bubbly personality. English is the type to enter a room and fill it to the brim with tales of its past, these stories bringing a new and fresh perspective. English might be bothered by the glare at times, or might get frustrated by the number of times his jokes fail, but there's always a charm when it comes to English. With math, though, oh hoh boy, it's the total opposite. You get a tall, menacing man that has a past full of violence and arguments (believe me, basketball can get ugly). He might sound like a nice guy, but believe me, math can get scary. Math might happen to come in contact with English every so often, let's say in a classroom, yet English would always have the wittier and hard-punching comebacks. When it comes to this age-old question, no matter what side you may be on, one thing may be clear. English has always come before math. Does this make it superior? Abso-freakin-lutely. English brings the soft, comforting side with stories you can dive into and a class you could change for the better in. Euclid did not discover math. Math is and was an ongoing process of discovery of the relationship between all things that can be expressed with math formulas. Most of what the ancient Greeks did was based on geometry. Euclid gathered all the geometric information together and tried to systematize it so that it would be easier to understand and easier to learn and/or use. He did nothing with the other branches of math. Download Article Download Article Math is an engaging, rewarding field to study, although it also presents plenty of challenges. If you're struggling with math—whether in or out of a classroom setting—there are plenty of concrete steps you can take to boost your math abilities. If you're a student, don't shy away from asking your instructor for help, and practice good classroom habits like taking notes and asking questions about topics that confuse you. Beyond that, try studying in a distraction-free environment, and review concepts that you're struggling to understand. Listen closely and take detailed notes during math class. If you have any questions, raise your hand or talk to your teacher after class. Before doing homework, review your class notes to solidify the information. Complete your homework on time so you'll be ready for the next class. Start studying for an upcoming exam 3-4 days in advance. Plan to study for about 60 minutes each day so you're fully prepared. 1 Attend every math class. It's tough to get better at math if you skip classes. You'll miss out on valuable instruction if you're absent, and your math skills remain stagnant. Math skills and concepts are cumulative, meaning that what you learn during week 5 of the semester will build on what you learned during week 4. But, if you skipped classes during week 4, you'll almost certainly struggle to pick up the concepts taught in future weeks. If you must miss a class (e.g., if you're sick), email your teacher and ask what information you missed. Politely ask them if you can make up in-class assignments you missed. 2 Listen closely during class. Focusing and paying attention to your teacher can help you get better faster. Write down any problems, equations, or figures that the instructor draws on the board. These will be valuable to refer back to if you get stumped while working on math homework outside of class. If you typically sit with a group of friends who whisper or text during class and distract you from what the teacher is saying, move away from them and sit alone near the front of the room. Advertisement 3 Take notes during class. As the teacher speaks, jot down detailed notes in your best handwriting. It's very likely that what the teacher is saying is important and is something you should remember that will help you study for tests. Writing down what your instructor is saying will help you understand the ideas, and the notes you take will also be a valuable resource when you're studying for a test or quiz.[1] You can take notes either on paper or in a word-processing document on your computer. However, if you have a tendency to get distracted on the internet while you're taking notes with a computer, stick to taking notes on paper. 4 Ask your math teacher for help if you're struggling. If you're confused about something, talk to your teacher. Raise your hand during class and ask a question, or visit your teacher after class with a specific problem. In reality, you're probably not the only one confused, and other students will appreciate your question too.[2] For example, you could say something like, "I'm really struggling with understanding imaginary numbers, and I've read the textbook chapter a few times. Could you explain them to me again?" 5 Study in a group of peers. Study groups are a great way to prepare for a test and improve your math abilities. They let you and your peers ask each other questions about topics that confuse you and review material that's going to appear on an upcoming test or exam. Try studying with flash cards, or working difficult problems together.[3] Keep focused during group study time! If it turns into a social hour, your math skills won't get any stronger. If people start joking around or lose focus, say something like, "Hey guys, I'm glad we're having a good time, but let's keep focused on the math we came here to study." Advertisement 1 Brush up on basic math concepts. Math can be a difficult subject, especially if you don't understand some of the core concepts. More advanced mathematical ideas build on more basic ones, so it is not a bad idea to review concepts and ideas that are a little fuzzy, until they become perfectly clear. For example, brush up on Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.[4] These are crucial parts of math, and having a firm grasp on them will help you out in more advanced fields of math, including algebra and trigonometry. 2 Read through the notes you took during class. Take 10 to 15 minutes to re-read the notes you took during the previous math lecture. Your detailed notes won't do you much good if you never refer back to them! When you sit down to do your homework or solve a few math problems, look over what you jotted down. This will keep the steps you'll use to solve an equation or calculate a variable fresh in your mind and prevent any potential misunderstandings.[5] If you're confused by your notes or can't read your own handwriting, try re-reading the chapter of your math textbook that you're currently working through. Doing this will help you to understand the mathematical topics you're currently working on. 3 Complete every problem on your assignments. Instead of viewing homework as an obligation, look at it as a way to improve your skills. To that end, make sure that you do 100% of the problems on each assignment you're given. If you're not quite sure how to do an assigned problem or feel like it's over your head, speak to your teacher after class and ask for their help.[6] If you'd rather not ask the teacher, you could also ask one of your peers or friends how to solve a tricky problem. 4 Work additional problems on your own. Once you've finished your homework, try doing a few more questions. After completing 3 to 5 extra problems, check your answers against those given in the back of the book. If one of your answers is incorrect, check your work and find where you slipped up. Working extra problems is a great way to improve your math skills![7] Let's say you're studying geometry and are having a hard time rotating and reflecting shapes around axes. Work a few problems that deal with this issue. Start with easy problems and work your way to more difficult ones to help yourself master the issue. EXPERT TIP Joseph Meyer Math Teacher Joseph Meyer is a High School Math Teacher based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is an educator at City Charter High School, where he has been teaching for over 7 years. Joseph is also the founder of Sandbox Math, an online learning community dedicated to helping students succeed in Algebra. His site is set apart by its focus on fostering genuine comprehension through step-by-step understanding (instead of just getting the correct final answer), enabling learners to identify and overcome misunderstandings and confidently take on any test they face. He received his MA in Physics from Case Western Reserve University and his BA in Physics from Baldwin Wallace University. Hone your mental math skills. Improve your math muscle memory by solving problems without using calculators, paper, or counting aids. Use your mind, memory, lessons, and discussions with your classmates to refine your math skills and improve your problem-solving abilities. 5 Study for tests in advance. Start preparing for exams 3 to 4 days ahead of time. When your teacher says a test is coming up, avoid cramming the night before. Plan to study for about 60 minutes each day to brush up for the test. Re-read the book chapters you'll be tested on and look over your relevant in-class notes to see what mistakes to avoid. If you have time, you could even test yourself with flash cards or form an impromptu study group with your friends.[8] If you find that you've forgotten some of the math lessons or are still struggling with a tricky concept, ask for help! The teacher will appreciate your earnestness and won't mind answering your questions. Advertisement 1 Break down tough problems into smaller parts. Master difficult math concepts by making them seem manageable. Even the most complex math equations are made up of many small, not particularly difficult component steps. Once you figure out what those steps are and how to solve them individually, you'll be well on your way to correctly solving the larger problem.[9] For example, say you're working on a complicated algebra problem that involves dividing 1 variable-filled equation by another. First solve each of the equations above and below the division line, and only then move on to tackling the division. 2 Figure out why you missed the problems that you solved incorrectly. A great way to improve at math is to learn from your own mistakes. This way, you can improve in the specific areas that you're weakest in. After each quiz or test is returned to you, take a look at the problems you missed and review your steps to find out where you went wrong. Then, the next time you come across this kind of problem, you can solve it correctly! For example, maybe you followed the order of operations incorrectly and forgot to solve equations within parentheses first. Do this with your homework, too! Review each assignment after it's passed back to you and figure out where you went wrong on the problems that you missed. 3 Explain tricky concepts to your peers. Teaching a concept to others is a great way to improve your own understanding. You'll be forced to put your math knowledge into words and figure out ways to break large, complicated ideas into smaller, bite-sized bits of knowledge. If you get stuck trying to explain something, refer back to the textbook or ask your teacher for help.[10] Say that a friend from your math class is struggling to understand how to use the quadratic equation. Explain it to them as best you can, and solve a couple of problems with them to make sure you both get it. 4 Apply math concepts to real-world issues. Turn your math problems into something relatable. Math can sometimes feel a little abstract and seem like it doesn't tie into the real world. This doesn't need to be the case, though. Help yourself get better at math by finding ways to tie what you're learning in with your real life. For example, the Pythagorean Theorem has to do with the ways that shapes of different sizes relate to one another.[11] As another example, think of negative numbers. While they may seem irrelevant when you're first learning about them, negative numbers are useful in thinking through ideas like financial debt, which is a concept you should understand. The mathematical constant "e" also has real-life tie-ins and it can help you understand mathematical growing processes. Ask your teacher to help you come up with some additional ways that you can apply math to real-world issues. Advertisement 1 Stay calm and focused during tests. Feeling anxious during a test could lower your overall score. So, take a deep breath before you go into the classroom to stay calm. If you feel yourself tensing up during the test, stand up, stretch your legs, and take a 2–3 minute break to calm down. Also make sure you get a good night's sleep and eat a full, healthy meal before going in for a math test. 2 Remove all distractions. Make your studying environment as distraction-free as possible. Put the cell phone aside and turn off the TV. Don't have anything other than your textbook and a calculator on your desk, as you might be tempted to play with the object and lose concentration. If studying with friends distracts you from your work, plan to do your math work alone.[12] If it helps, you could set a timer (say, for 1 hour) and aim to concentrate on the work before you in the time you've set aside for it. There will plenty of time for the other things later. 3 Work with a tutor. If you're still struggling with math, it might be worth asking a tutor for help. One-on-one learning is often beneficial, since the tutor can answer all of your questions and tailor their teaching style to your learning style. The tutor can also explain concepts in ways that make sense to you, and can give you helpful advice to make learning math easier.[13] A lot of colleges and private high schools offer free math tutoring on the campus. Talk with the admin assistant in the math department or with your teacher or to get connected with a tutor. Advertisement Add New Question Question Can you become good at math later in life? Daron Cam is an Academic Tutor and the Founder of Bay Area Tutors, Inc., a San Francisco Bay Area-based tutoring service that provides tutoring in mathematics, science, and overall academic confidence building. Daron has over eight years of teaching math in classrooms and over nine years of one-on-one tutoring experience. He teaches all levels of math including calculus, pre-algebra, algebra I, geometry, and SAT/ACT math prep. Daron holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and a math teaching credential from St. Mary's College. Absolutely! It can take a little bit of time to get really good at math, so don't worry if you're already done with your early schooling. You can always catch up if you're willing to put in some hard work. Question How can I learn math easily? Daron Cam is an Academic Tutor and the Founder of Bay Area Tutors, Inc., a San Francisco Bay Area-based tutoring service that provides tutoring in mathematics, science, and overall academic confidence building. Daron has over eight years of teaching math in classrooms and over nine years of one-on-one tutoring experience. He teaches all levels of math including calculus, pre-algebra, algebra I, geometry, and SAT/ACT math prep. Daron holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and a math teaching credential from St. Mary's College. Math is one of those classes where each new concept builds on a previous concept. It's not like English class where you don't necessarily need to know about poetry to read to a novel. So if you fall behind in math, it can be kind of hard to catch up. There's nothing necessarily "easy" about this, but math is very rewarding and fun if you're willing to put a little work in! Question What's the best way to prepare for a test? Daron Cam is an Academic Tutor and the Founder of Bay Area Tutors, Inc., a San Francisco Bay Area-based tutoring service that provides tutoring in mathematics, science, and overall academic confidence building. Daron has over eight years of teaching math in classrooms and over nine years of one-on-one tutoring experience. He teaches all levels of math including calculus, pre-algebra, algebra I, geometry, and SAT/ACT math prep. Daron holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and a math teaching credential from St. Mary's College. If you've taken diligent notes, the test prep should be fairly straightforward. Just review your notes and make sure you understand the key concepts. If you have any practice problems available to you, do those. The more practice you can get, the better. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks The advice in this section is based on the lived experiences of wikiHow readers like you. If you have a helpful tip you'd like to share on wikiHow, please submit it in the field below. Try not to write too many notes word-for-word, you might miss other information. Be selective and write down things that you really feel need to be written down. Make sure to write down the examples your teacher put on the board when they're giving a lecture. What the teacher writes might be on the test! If the teacher doesn't explain something well, try to find a better explanation on a site like Math Planet or ConnectEd. Advertisement This article was co-authored by Daron Cam. Daron Cam is an Academic Tutor and the Founder of Bay Area Tutors, Inc., a San Francisco Bay Area-based tutoring service that provides tutoring in mathematics, science, and overall academic confidence building. Daron has over eight years of teaching math in classrooms and over nine years of one-on-one tutoring experience. He teaches all levels of math including calculus, pre-algebra, algebra I, geometry, and SAT/ACT math prep. Daron holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and a math teaching credential from St. Mary's College. This article has been viewed 296,271 times. Co-authors: 79 Updated: March 25, 2025 Views: 296,271 Categories: Mathematics Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 296,271 times. "This really helped me! I started to get B's and A's. I understand it because I follow all the steps. I almost got held back last year and got F's but this year I got a B in math! This really helped. Thank you!"..." more Share your story A Group of Colleg Students I believe that a successful education requires both maths and English. Maths is an important subject to master because it helps us understand the world around us, while English teaches us how to communicate effectively with others. The truth is that both subjects prepare students for their future in different, equally important ways. What are the differences between math and English? English is an international language spoken and used all over the world. Whereas mathematics is the language of sciences, it is also used in everyday life. Even though both English and mathematics are considered languages, they are two totally distinct disciplines. Read on to find out the benefits of both English and mathematics and the similarities and differences between them, and what makes maths and English essential components of a well-rounded education. You might also enjoy reading: 9 Best Novels for ESL Adults and Drastically Improve your English Skills. Maths is a fundamental part of our everyday lives. Without an understanding of basic maths, we would be unable to make decisions regarding finances or measure distances when traveling. We would also have difficulty doing simple tasks such as baking, reading recipes, or following directions on a map. I believe that maths is necessary for higher-level thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making, which prepares students for the real world. Maths can also help foster an appreciation for science and technology which has become increasingly important in today's society. By learning the principles behind mathematics, students can use these skills to understand better the complex systems that drive modern technology, such as computer programming or engineering designs. Ultimately, mastering maths gives students more career opportunities because employers need workers who understand numbers and data analysis. Contrary to what most people believe, English does more than just teach us how to read and write; it helps us learn how to think critically about the information we consume by teaching us how to identify patterns, ask questions, and draw conclusions from what we read or hear. In addition, English also encourages creative thinking through writing which prepares students for future jobs that require excellent communication skills, such as sales, marketing, or management roles. English is also an essential language for those looking to pursue higher education since it is used in many university courses or lectures around the world, regardless of what country you live in or the language you speak at home. Not only will learning English help increase your knowledge base, but it will also develop your analytical skills, which can be applied to any field you might choose later on down the line. Maths and English actually have quite a bit in common. I believe that both maths and English require an understanding of basic grammar and vocabulary, although I know this is expressed differently in each subject. For example, in maths, grammar is expressed through equations, while in English, it is expressed through sentences. Furthermore, I also believe that both maths and English also rely heavily on problem-solving skills; students must think critically about how to solve a problem or answer a question correctly. And more importantly, both maths and English require a lot of practice; without consistent practice, you won't get very far in either subject. Student Learning English and Mathematics Despite some commonalities between maths and English, there are also several key differences that set these two disciplines apart from one another. Maths typically relies heavily on numbers, while English relies heavily on words; this makes for very different learning styles for each subject. In addition, mathematics tends to focus more on quantitative reasoning, while reading focuses more on qualitative reasoning (not all texts are equal). And more importantly, I believe that math tends to be more formulaic, while writing is much less structured; it all depends on the individual text or project. Moreover, English is just a communication medium and can be replaceable by other languages (as important as English). English is not the only language in the world. Different societies have gotten along perfectly fine without speaking a word of English. On the other hand, Mathematics plays some role in almost everything. We use mathematics in every modern convenience, engineering, and design. Math drives the world's economy, making it truly global. And I believe that math is essential to modern everyday life. Even though mathematics class appears to be the most important class during our school years, English plays a more significant role in our lives. The truth is that English is not just about grammar and reading but also listening and understanding, which are crucial for excelling in mathematics and everything in life. Also, the importance of both English and mathematics depends on specific situations. For example, maths will be a better choice if you want to model information accurately. On the other hand, English is better than math for everything we do in life. For instance, you can't describe feelings with math. Both maths and English play an important role in helping students gain knowledge that they will use throughout their lives. Whether it is understanding complex mathematical models or improving your communication skills through writing essays or reports, I believe that both subjects are equally important when trying to succeed academically as well as professionally later on down the line. If you are a student looking to give yourself the best chance possible for success later on down the line, I encourage you to put equal effort into both maths and English. English and Maths are two very different subjects that require different skills and approaches. English focuses on language, communication, and interpretation, while Maths is more about logic, problem-solving, and calculations. Both subjects require critical thinking and analytical skills, but in different ways. English often involves subjective interpretation and creativity, while Maths is more objective and precise. Despite their differences, both subjects are important in developing a well-rounded education and are essential for success in many fields. English and Maths are two core subjects that are taught in schools around the world. While they may seem very different from each other, they both have their own unique attributes that make them important in education. In this article, we will compare the attributes of English and Maths to understand their differences and similarities.Language vs. NumbersOne of the most obvious differences between English and Maths is the use of language in English and numbers in Maths. English is primarily focused on the use of words, grammar, and communication skills. On the other hand, Maths deals with numbers, equations, and problem-solving. While English requires creativity and interpretation, Maths relies on logic and reasoning.Subjective vs. ObjectiveAnother key difference between English and Maths is the subjective nature of English compared to the objective nature of Maths. In English, there is often room for interpretation and personal opinion when analyzing literature or writing essays. On the contrary, Maths is more concrete and has definitive answers that are either right or wrong. This difference in subjectivity versus objectivity can appeal to different types of learners.Application in Real LifeBoth English and Maths have practical applications in real life, but they are used in different ways. English skills are essential for communication, writing reports, and analyzing information. Maths, on the other hand, is used for problem-solving, budgeting, and understanding patterns in data. While English may be more directly applicable to everyday communication, Maths is crucial for logical thinking and decision-making.Creativity vs. LogicEnglish and Maths also differ in terms of the skills they emphasize. English encourages creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to express ideas effectively. In contrast, Maths focuses on logic, reasoning, and the ability to solve complex problems using mathematical principles. While both subjects require analytical skills, they prioritize different aspects of cognitive development.Subject ComplexityEnglish and Maths vary in terms of their complexity and difficulty. English can be subjective and open to interpretation, making it challenging for some students to grasp. On the other hand, Maths is often seen as more straightforward and structured, with clear rules and formulas to follow. This difference in complexity can influence students' preferences and strengths in each subject.Interdisciplinary ConnectionsDespite their differences, English and Maths are interconnected in various ways. For example, Maths is used in analyzing data for research papers in English, while English skills are essential for writing reports on mathematical concepts. Both subjects also require critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are transferable across disciplines. By understanding the connections between English and Maths, students can develop a more holistic approach to learning.ConclusionIn conclusion, English and Maths have distinct attributes that make them valuable subjects in education. While English emphasizes language, creativity, and subjective analysis, Maths focuses on numbers, logic, and objective problem-solving. Both subjects have practical applications in real life and require different cognitive skills to master. By recognizing the differences and similarities between English and Maths, students can appreciate the unique benefits of each subject and develop a well-rounded education. Comparisons may contain inaccurate information about people, places, or facts. Please report any issues. In recent years, research has shown that languages like Mandarin Chinese, Korean, Turkish, and Japanese use more simple number terminology and express math concepts like fractions more clearly than English. This makes it easier for speakers of these languages to grasp basic concepts of arithmetic at an earlier age. English has more than two dozen unique number terms. In contrast, Chinese has only nine. This means that, right off the bat, English-speaking children are tasked with learning nearly three times as much number vocabulary as Chinese-speaking children. Add to this the fact that the English counting system is fraught with irregularities and logical inconsistencies, and you start to understand why the average four-year-old in China can count to forty, while the average four-year-old in the United States can only count to fifteen. Threeteen, Fourteen, Fiveteen? The trouble with English starts with the number 'eleven.' If we jump ahead, we get the numbers fourteen, sixteen, and seventeen, which give us the assumption that we should also have oneteen, twoteen, threeteen, and fiveteen. Instead, we have the irregular words: eleven, twelve, thirteen, and fifteen. These may harken vaguely to the ones values they contain, but not in any clear way. Jumping up the ladder again, we run into other oddball numbers like twenty, thirty, and fifty. Again, none of these explicitly contain the numbers to which they are vitally related (two, three, and five), even though it's been shown that understanding the relationship between tens values and ones values is critical to early math comprehension. Rather than giving eleven its own unique linguistic term, languages like Chinese, Korean, and Japanese render eleven as 'ten-one.' This makes the relationship between ten and eleven explicitly clear – eleven is a concept that cannot be separated from 'ten plus one.' Additionally, having the ten first makes it easier to understand the idea of place value. The first number in a two-digit number, a Chinese speaker quickly realizes, represents the number of tens. The second number represents the number of ones. Thus, twenty-five is 'two-tens-five' and forty-seven is 'four-tens-seven.' This also makes it clearer from the get-go that the number system is organized into units of tens, which becomes a vital concept when children get to addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers. In English, however, number names beyond ten don't make clear the place value rule. Once we get past pesky eleven and twelve, there are the teen numbers, a sloppy group of seven that require us to read the ones place first, followed by the tens place. Then when we get to twenty and above, the order switches. Suddenly we start to read the tens place followed by the ones place (if this isn't clear, think of the way you read 16 versus 26: You are reading the number from right to left in 16, where teen – for whatever reason – denotes ten, but from left to right in 26, where twenty denotes 'two-tens'). This flip-flopping makes it difficult for children to catch onto the place value rule, and in turn makes it easy for them to confuse numbers like, say, 14 and 41. When students get up into more abstract math concepts like fractions, the American system again requires students to learn a whole new vocabulary: halves, thirds, fifths, eighths, etc. Says Karen Fuson, a Northwestern University psychologist who focuses on Asian-Western differences, "For fractions, we say three-fifths. The Chinese is literally 'out of five parts, take three.' That's telling you conceptually what a fraction is. It's differentiating the denominator and the numerator." Where Chinese succeeds in providing clarity, English remains clumsy and seemingly arbitrary. What's Happening in the Brain? The messy relationship between the linguistic representation of a number (i.e. 'eleven' for 11) and the actual value of the number also means that people who speak English use different cognitive processes to solve math problems than people who speak other languages with more logical numerical systems. In one study, MRI brain scanning technology was used to monitor the brain activity of twelve English-speaking students and twelve Chinese-speaking students as they solved a series of math puzzles. Similar levels of activity were recorded in the parietal cortex, which is the region of the brain believed to give a sense of quantity. However, the English-speaking students also displayed high levels of activity in the parts of the brain involved in the meanings of words, whereas the Chinese-speaking students showed more activity in the visual and spatial centers of the brain. This led researches to conclude that Chinese's straightforward way of describing numbers may make native speakers less reliant on language processing when solving math problems. We must be careful, though, not to jump to one-stop conclusions when we examine all these differences. Although it's likely that language differences do play a role in determining cognitive processing methods and the early success of children in understanding math and number concepts, cultural differences also certainly play a role. For example, the popularity of the abacus as a learning tool in many Asian countries may encourage young people to start thinking about math from a visuo-spatial perspective from a young age. Similarly, a greater emphasis on the importance of math in other cultures may lead to more class time spent on math concepts as well as more math-related practice at home, culminating in overall better math outcomes. One thing is for certain though: In math, one concept builds on another. By age four, there's already a twenty-five-number counting gap between English-speaking children and their Chinese-speaking counterparts. By the time they reach high school, students in the United States rank thirtieth out of sixty-five nations on international achievement exams. So is math harder in English than in some languages? Yes, but it could be worse. Around the world, there are a whole roster of counting systems that make English look like a walk in the park. The Arara people of the Amazon, for example, only count in pairs. Here's how they count to six: 1: Anane 2: Adak 3: Adak Anane 4: Adak Adak 5: Adak Adak

understand the deeper factors that shape our maths ability – and perhaps, allow the many children and adults who struggle with maths to see their problem in a new light.Getty ImagesA schoolgirl in Germany does her maths homework (Credit: Getty Images)Is counting easier in Chinese?Let's first consider the difficulties that a child may face with counting. In English, there is no systematic rule for the naming of numbers. After ten, we have "eleven" and "twelve" and then the teens: "thirteen", "fourteen", "fifteen" and so on. If you didn't know the word for "eleven", you would be unable to just guess it – you might come up with something like "one-teen".Even more confusingly, some English words invert the numbers they refer to: the word "fourteen" puts the four first, even though it appears last in the number 14 (we'll look at the impact of such inversions later). For multiples of 10, English speakers switch to a different pattern: "twenty", "thirty", "forty" and so on. It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "thirteen" is different from "thirty", for example. In the meantime, they may unconsciously try to make the pattern more regular, by slotting words like "five-teen" or "twenty-ten" into their counting sequence.Other languages have even more intricacies. In French, for example, numbers are named somewhat consistently up to 60, after which the system changes to a so-called vigesimal structure, meaning, it is based on multiples of 20. The French word for 71 is soixante-et-onze (sixty-and-eleven), for example, and 99 is quatre-vingt-dix-neuf (four-twenty-nineteen).Even native French-speaking children seem to wrestle with this system: in one study, they performed worse in transcoding numbers over 60 compared with English-speaking children. Transcoding means correctly converting words into numbers and vice versa, for example, reading out 71 as seventy-one, or indeed, soixante-et-onze.Getty ImagesA primary school child in Cardiff, Wales, writes down maths excercises (Credit: Getty Images)Chinese children were about a year ahead of American children in their capacity to count to higher numbersIn Chinese, the number words lack these irregularities. Once you know the words for one through 10, you can easily infer all the others.For example, the word for one is yi, two is er, and ten is shi. Eleven is shi yi (ten-one), twelve is shi er (ten-two) etc. Twenty is er shi (two-ten), twenty-one is er shi yi (two-ten-one). This consistent characteristic is known as linguistic transparency by psychologists, and it was long thought to aid children's first steps to basic numeracy. (BBC Future has reported on a similar effect in writing.)In the mid-1990s, Kevin Miller at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champagne and colleagues put the idea to the test by comparing the numerical abilities of four- and five-year-olds in the US and mainland China. They found that the children from both countries were equally able to count up to 12, but the Chinese children were about a year ahead of the Americans in their capacity to count to higher numbers.Further studies suggested that Chinese children find it easier to grasp the basic logic of our "base-10" counting system. Put simply, this is the fact that we use multiples of tens and units to represent numbers and that the order of the digits tells us which is which. In Chinese, this is more obvious: er shi, "two-ten" is easily understood as 2 x 10 = 20. The English word "twenty" doesn't spell this out so clearly.To investigate whether this makes a difference to children's understanding, six-year-olds of various nationalities were given one set of blocks to represent tens and another set to represent units. Their task was to use the blocks to illustrate different quantities. Children in China and other East Asian countries with greater linguistic transparency were more likely to represent larger numbers using a combination of both sets of blocks, while those who spoke English, Swedish or French were more likely to count out the larger numbers in individual units.How to count to 1,000 on your handsAs intriguing as these studies are, they couldn't rule out the potential influence of the different education systems in the different countries – it's possible that maths is just taught more effectively in some countries than others. However, a clever test of Welsh speakers in the UK managed to rule out this confounding factor.Like their Chinese equivalents, Welsh number words have greater linguistic transparency. The Welsh words for one, two and 10 are "un", "dau" and "deg". Eleven in Welsh is "un deg un" (one ten one), twelve is "un deg dau" (one ten two), and twenty-two is "dau ddeg dau" (two tens two). Crucially, children in Welsh-speaking schools follow the same curriculum as those in the English-speaking schools.When Ann Dowker, a lecturer in psychology at the University of Oxford, learnt about Welsh's linguistic transparency, she saw it provided the perfect opportunity to study the effects of the language's counting system on children's mathematical ability, without educational differences potentially muddying the results.Dowker's findings were nuanced. She found, for instance, that six-year-olds who spoke Welsh at home and school made fewer errors when reading aloud pairs of two-digit numbers. They were also better able to point out which was the bigger of the two, compared to those who spoke English. "There was a significant advantage," she says.However, these benefits didn't seem to translate to advantages in other measures of general mathematical ability. For this reason, Dowker concludes that the effects of language on numerical ability are subtle and specific rather than large and "pervasive". She certainly doesn't believe that linguistic transparence, alone, could explain why East Asian countries tend to be placed higher in educational league tables.Cross-country comparisons within Europe support this position. Consider German, which shares many of the irregularities seen in English, including the inversion of certain numbers. Forty-five, for example is fünfundvierzig in German (five-and-forty). Some studies suggest that inversion confuses German children as they learn to write numbers as digits. (Hearing fünfundvierzig they might write 54, for example.) But that doesn't seem to hold them back for long. "Germany does rather well in international comparisons," says Dowker.Getty ImagesVisitors take pictures of an art installation named 100 colours by French architect Emmanuelle Moureaux (Credit: Getty Images)Even if the influence of language does not extend to the whole of mathematics, emerging evidence suggests it might extend to a handful of skills beyond counting. So far, there is some evidence that language may affect how quickly children learn to use fractions. "When thinking about fractions, we have to look at the big part first and then see how much of that is in the numerator," explains Jimin Park at the University of Minnesota, whose PhD thesis concerns the linguistic representation of fractions.In Korean, this relationship is explicitly spelled out. The term for 1/3 is sam bun ui il, which translates as "of three parts, one", and 3/7 is chil bun-ul sam, which translates as "of seven parts, three" – where the English terms "one third" or "three sevenths" do not make this so immediately obvious. And this seems to give young Korean children a slight advantage in matching named fractions to diagrams illustrating the quantity, before they have even been taught formal lessons in the idea. "When they have to verbally understand fractions, the Korean children definitely benefit," says Park. Intriguingly, when English children are taught to describe fractions with the Korean style of phrasing, it does seem to improve their intuitive understanding of the quantities.Neither Park nor Dowker would suggest widespread revisions of how we name numbers, but the simple awareness of these linguistic quirks and obstacles may help teachers to give children the right support.If nothing else, this research can help to remind us adults of the first steps of our intellectual journey, and take pride in having mastered something as unexpectedly complex as counting. Perhaps it will encourage those of us who feel we are simply bad at maths, to give it another try.*Answer: 2/3 is bigger than 3/5 A Group of Colleg Students I believe that a successful education requires both maths and English. Maths is an important subject to master because it helps us understand the world around us, while English teaches us how to communicate effectively with others. 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