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Arthur H. G. Jones
Basic English

BASIC ENGLISH

(IN BASIC)

Basic English is an attempt to give to everyone a second, or international language, which will take as little of the learner's time as possible.

It is a system in which everything may be said for all the purposes of everyday existence: the common interests of men and women, general talk, news, trade, and science.

To the eye and ear it will not seem in any way different from normal English, which is now the natural language, or the language of the Governments, of more than 500,000,000 persons.

There are only 850 words in the complete list, which may be clearly printed on one side of a bit of note-paper. But simple rules are given for making other words with the help of those in the list; such as *designer*, *designing*, and *designed*, from *design*, or *coal-mine* from *coal* and *mine*.

The word order is fixed by other short rules, which make it clear from an example

such as

"I will put the record on the machine now"
what is the right and natural place for
every sort of word.

Whatever is doing the act comes first ;
then the time word, such as *will* ; then the
act or operation (*put, take, or get*) ; then
the thing to which something is done,
and so on.

It is an English in which 850 words do
all the work of 20,000, and has been
formed by taking out everything which is
not necessary to the sense. *Disembark*,
for example, is broken up into *get off a ship*.
I am able takes the place of *I can* ; *shape*
is covered by the more general word *form* ;
and *difficult* by the use of *hard*.

By putting together the names of simple
operations—such as *get, give, come, go, put,*
take—with the words for directions like
in, over, through, and the rest, two or three
thousand complex ideas, like *insert* which
becomes *put in*, are made part of the
learner's store.

Most of these are clear to everyone.
But in no other language is there an equal
chance of making use of this process.
That is why Basic is designed to be the
international language of the future.

In addition to the Basic words themselves, the learner has, at the start, about fifty words which are now so common in all languages that they may be freely used for any purpose. Examples are *Radio, Hotel, Telephone, Bar, Club.*

For the needs of any science, a short special list gets the expert to a stage where international words are ready to hand.

Those who have no knowledge of English will be able to make out the sense of a Radio Talk, or a business letter, after a week with the word-list and the records ; but it may be a month or two before they are talking and writing freely.

In fact, it is the business of all internationally-minded persons to make Basic English part of the system of education in every country, so that there may be less chance of war, and less learning of languages—which, after all, for most of us, are a very unnecessary waste of time.

BABEL

(In Basic)

Now the earth had only one language, and the number of its words was small. . . .

And the Lord said, See, the people is one, and they have all one language, and they are doing this : and now everything which they have in mind to do will be possible for them. . . .

Come, let us go down, and get the words of their language mixed up, so that no one may have knowledge of what the other is saying.

So the Lord sent them away into every part of the earth, and their building was stopped.

For this reason it was named Babel, because there the Lord got the language of all the earth mixed up ; and from there the Lord sent them away into every part of the earth.

BASIC ENGLISH

OPERATIONS
100 STC

THINGS

QUALITIES

[illegible]

THE FUTURE OF BASIC

(Put into Basic from *The Shape of Things to Come* by H. G. Wells)

One unlooked-for development of the hundred years between 2000 and 2100 was the way in which Basic English became in that short time the common language for use between nations, and the expansion at an even greater rate—as the outcome of this, and after it had been changed in a number of ways—of English itself. The English used by most of us to-day in talking and writing is a very different tongue from the English of Shakespeare, Addison, Bunyan, or Shaw. It has got away from the last signs of such old and complex forms as a 'subjunctive mood'; the form of a word on paper has become truly representative of its sound; everyone gives the same sound to the same word; a number of words and word-groups have been taken over from other languages. . . . In its natural form it was better for the purpose in a number of ways than the chief languages in competition with it, Spanish, French, Russian, German, and Italian. It was simpler, more delicate, more elastic, and even at that time more widely used, but it was certainly the development of Basic English which gave it the position it now has.

Basic English was the invention of a man whose quick and fertile mind was trained at Cambridge in England. . . . It was taken up in a most surprising way after the First Conference at Basra. It was made the language for all public and government purposes in every country by the Air and Sea Control, and by 2020 almost everyone was able to make use of Basic for talking and writing. . . .

HISTORY

- 1920—1922. Development of the Theory of language put forward in *The Meaning of Meaning* (International Library of Psychology, 1923).
- 1923—1927. Work on the structure of the system, and the earlier discoveries of Jeremy Bentham.
 - 1928. The 850 words printed.
- 1928—1929. Testing the 850 words.
 - 1930. The complete system printed in *Basic English*.
 - 1931. *Debabelisation*.
- 1931—1933. The first 20 books produced in Basic.

Among those who have given their support to Basic English are :—

- Walter Angermund (Press Director, Deutsche Lufthansa, Berlin).
Norbert Čapek (Prague).
Jose Castillejo (Professor in the University of Madrid).
R. N. Coudenhove-Kalergi (President, Pan-Europa Union, Vienna).
D. L. Crawford (President, the University of Hawaii).
F. B. Czarnomski (Director of the Polish Press Bureau, London).
Gudmundur Finnbogason (Librarian, National Library, Iceland).
John Dewey (Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University).
Fielding H. Garrison, (Librarian, Welch Memorial Library, Baltimore).
Sir Richard Gregory (Editor of "Nature").
S. Hanzlik (Professor in the University of Prague).
P. Harting (Professor of English, University of Groningen).
Sven Hedin (Late President, Swedish Academy of Sciences).
Halldór Hermannsson (Cornell University).
J. Heyrovský (Professor of Chemistry, Prague).
Manley O. Hudson (Professor of International Law, Harvard).
Julian S. Huxley (late Professor of Zoology, Kings' College, London).
A. Lloyd James (Professor of Phonetics, University of London).
A. E. Kennelly (Professor of Electrical Engineering, Harvard).
J. J. Van der Leeuw (LL.D., Professor at the University of Leiden).
B. Lewis (Director of the American Institute, Prague).
W. K. Liao (Professor of Philosophy, University of Nanking).
Gustaf Mattson (Olof-Skolan, Stockholm).
Max Müller (Director, Realgymnasium, Iserlohn).
Rokuro Nakaseko, Sc.D. (Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan).
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Otto Neurath (Director, The Mundaneum, Vienna).
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Raymond Pearl (Professor of Biology, Johns Hopkins University).
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J. Z. Schneider (Professor at the Institute of Technology, Prague).
Karl Schneider (Studienrat, Berlin).
George Bernard Shaw.
K. Shinoda (Professor at the Higher Normal School, Tokyo).
A. K. Siddhanta (Professor at the Dyal Singh College, Lahore, India).
G. Elliot Smith (Professor of Anatomy, London University).
Wickham Steed.
Vilhjalmur Stefansson, LL.D.
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BASIC ENGLISH

Basic English

A general account, with Word-list and Rules.

The Basic Words

A full account of the 850, with all special uses.

The ABC of Basic English

A simple account, step by step for learners and teachers.

The Basic Dictionary

Putting into Basic the 7,500 words most used in Normal English.

The Basic Vocabulary

A history and discussion of the question; with details of the number of words used for different purposes.

Debabelization

The argument for Basic as the international language of the future; with over 100 pages of current opinion on the position of English.

Brighter Basic

For young persons of taste and feeling. This is not a book for teachers, but it may be of value to those who are tired and sad.

Basic for Business

A complete system for international trade, with examples of business letters for all purposes.

Basic English Applied: Science

Taking the learner to a stage where international words are ready to hand. Chemistry, Physics, and Biology are here covered.

Basic for Economics

Covering economic theory; with examples from representative writers.

EXAMPLES

Basic by Examples. Every Basic word with its different uses.

The Basic Traveller. Simple examples for all purposes.

The Gold Insect. Poe's "Gold Bug" put into Basic English.

Julius Caesar. From North's Plutarch (with "Brutus").

Robinson Crusoe. His story in Basic.

Japanese Stories. From Lafcadio Hearn.

That Night. Tumura's "Sono Yo" in Basic.

The Organization of Peace. By Maxwell Garnett.

International Talks. By Wickham Steed; with Basic parallel.

Lamb's Stories from Shakespeare. A Basic selection.

Stories from the Bible. A selection from the coming Basic Bible.

The Chemical History of a Candle. Faraday in Basic.

Black Beauty. Anna Sewell's story. For school use.

Carl and Anna. Leonhard Frank's story. Not for school use.

All 2/6 (70 cents) a copy

Records, by Professor Lloyd James (4) 10/-. Panopticon 2/6

THE ORTHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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