English Language Day

English Language Day is celebrated each year on April 23 – the date when **tradition** says William Shakespeare was born. Shakespeare has been called the greatest writer in the English language. His plays continue to be published, performed in theaters and seen in films almost 400 years after his death.

Many people consider English as the unofficial "world language" because it is so widely used. English is the main language of business and aviation. It is the most widely used language on the Internet and social media.

The first English Language Day was the result of work by the United Nations. A few years ago, the U.N.'s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization created Language Days for each of the U.N.'s six official languages. The aim was to celebrate multilingualism – the use of different languages around the world – and different cultures. Another goal was to campaign for equal use of all six **official** languages throughout the United Nations. The other five languages are Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

The United Nations celebrated its first English Language Day on April 23, 2010. That day, a number of events were held at the U.N.'s headquarters in New York City. This year, the TOEFL program has announced plans for a 'live' question and answer chat on the social media website Face book. TOEFL is also known as the Test of English as a Foreign Language. The group says the program is for students interested in learning more about its test and the English language.