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Bad Economy Pushes Spaniards to Learn English - 2'04 -Transcript

Spain is in a recession. More than one in five Spaniards don't have jobs. Spain's unemployment is the highest of the seventeen countries that use the Euro. However, one part of the economy is doing well in Spain – English classes.

The EF Education First Company said Spain is a “low proficiency” country in English. Spain is below Italy and a little above Taiwan. A fifth of the world speaks Spanish. There are many Spanish language TV shows and movies. Spaniards can also watch Hollywood movies dubbed in Spanish. They can watch news from Latin America.

Richard Vaughan is from Texas. For thirty-five years, he's lived in Spain. He owns that country's biggest English teaching company. His company has its own TV channel. “Aprende Ingles” – Learn English – is Spain's only national channel in English. People watch his channel and take his classes to get a better job. “People don't learn English here for cultural reasons. Some do. But the motive is always, 99% of the time, professional.”

Economic problems at home can decrease job opportunities. Globalization may give opportunities for a better job in another country. “People realize, you know, they are not only going to have to be mobile out of a choice, but they are going to have to be mobile because of necessity.”

In Spain, some of those studying English hope for jobs in Britain or the United States. Others want to work for international companies with offices in Spain. Many companies now say workers must be bilingual.