

Transcript 1

on this wonderful day when we are gathered together to celebrate your academic success I have decided to talk to you about the benefits of failure and as you stand on the threshold of what is sometimes called real life I want to extol the crucial importance of imagination these may seem quixotic or paradoxical choices but please bear with me looking back at the 21-year-old that I was at graduation is a slightly uncomfortable experience for the 42-year-old that she has become half my lifetime ago I was striking an uneasy balance between the ambition I had for myself and what those closest to me expected of me I was convinced that the only thing I wanted to do ever was to write novels however my parents both of whom came from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension I know that the irony strikes with the force of a cartoon anvil now so they hoped that I would take a vocational degree I wanted to study English Literature a compromise was reached that in retrospect satisfied nobody and I went up to study Modern Languages hardly had my parents' car rounded the corner at the end of the road than I ditched German and scuttled off down the Classics corridor I cannot remember telling my parents that I was studying Classics they might well have found out for the first time on graduation day of all the subjects on this planet I think they would have been hard put to name one less useful than Greek mythology when it came to securing the keys to an executive bathroom

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Transcript 2

a language becomes a global language because of the power of the people who speak it has nothing to do with the structure of the language it is nothing about the English grammar or vocabulary or pronunciation or spelling that makes English an appealing language at a global level in fact if you think about it English spelling would put most people off you'd think so it's nothing to do with the structure of language no it's all to do with power but power means different things at different times English first became international because of political power military power the power of the British Empire really but it isn't just political that takes a language around the world there've got to be other factors too a century later we are talking about the 16-17th century there we had the power of science technology the industrial revolution English is a language of science that started then as something like two-thirds of the people who invented all the things that make modern society what it is did so through the medium of the English language and then in the 19th century economic power money talks always and the language it was talking in the 19th century was English because America and Britain between them had the money markets of the world sawn up for the most part and then in the 20th century we have cultural power with English being the language of the vast majority of the inventions that make modern society what it is so its English turning up as it was always in the right place at the right time during these last four hundred years or so that it produced the enormous global status that it currently has

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Transcript 3

in David Cameron I follow in the footsteps of a great modern Prime Minister under David's leadership the government stabilized the economy reduced the budget deficit and helped more people to work than ever before but David's true legacy is not about the economy but about social justice from the introduction of same-sex marriage to taking people on low wages out of income tax altogether David Cameron has led a One Nation government and it is in that spirit that I also plan to lead. Because, not everybody knows this, but the full title of my party is the Conservative and Unionist Party and the word Unionist is very important to me it means that we believe in the Union the precious, precious bond between England Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland but it means something else that is just as important it means we believe in a union not just between the nations of the United Kingdom but between all of our citizens every one of us whoever we are and wherever we're from that means fighting against the burning injustice that if you're born poor you will die on average nine years earlier than others if you're black you're treated more harshly by the criminal justice system than if you're white if you're a white working-class boy you're less likely than anybody else in Britain to go to university if you're at a state school you're less likely to reach the top professions than if you're educated privately if you're a woman you will earn less than a man if you suffer from mental health problems there's not enough help to hand if you're young you'll find it harder than ever before to own your own home but the mission to make Britain a country that works for everyone means more than fighting these injustices if you're from an ordinary working-class family life is much harder than many people in Westminster realize you have a job but you don't always have job security you have your own home but you worry about paying the mortgage you can just about manage but you worry about the cost of living and getting your kids into a good school if you're one of those families if you're just managing I want to address you directly I know you're working around the clock I know you're doing your best and I know that sometimes life can be a struggle

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Transcript 4

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