

## Ruby master - Feature #14138

### Define English.rb aliases by default and eliminate the library

11/28/2017 07:10 PM - headius (Charles Nutter)

|  |        |                 |
|--|--------|-----------------|
| <b>Status:</b>   | Closed |                 |
| <b>Priority:</b>   | Normal |                 |
| <b>Assignee:</b>   |        |                 |
| <b>Target version:</b>   |        |                 |
| <b>Description</b>   |        |                 |
| There are many good reasons to simply define all the English.rb global aliases at boot:  |        |                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JRuby has done it for years with zero reported bugs.</li><li>• Rubinius has done it for years with zero reported bugs.</li><li>• Globals are in general discouraged, so the likelihood of collision with a user library is very low.</li><li>• The globals that remain are better indicated by using the long name rather than the Perl-esque short names.</li><li>• One less library to maintain.</li></ul> |        |                 |
| The only argument to not do this seems to be the collision concern, but that has not affected hundreds of users of JRuby and Rubinius over the past decade. I think we're safe.  |        |                 |
| This would be ideal for 2.5, if it's not too late, since this is the big "gemifying" release. Eliminating English.rb would fit into that well.   |        |                 |
| <b>Related issues:</b>   |        |                 |
| Related to Ruby master - Feature #14240: warn four special variables: \$;, \$;, \$...  |        | <b>Closed</b>   |
| Related to Ruby master - Feature #16963: Remove English.rb from Ruby 2.8/3.0   |        | <b>Assigned</b> |

#### History

##### #1 - 11/29/2017 04:36 AM - MSP-Greg (Greg L)

Charles,

+1

You mentioned several good points. I've got them doc'd in the [Top Level Namespace](#) of my doc site so I could find the source, it would be nice if the comments could move there and replace the globals.rdoc file. Along with RDoc picking them up somehow...

##### #2 - 11/29/2017 08:18 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I agree too so +1 from me.

Similar to pp by default, I shied away from suggesting the above because I assumed that there may be speed issues.

If, however had, there are no considerable speed penalties then, similar to pp, I'd be all in favour of this.

I never had any concern about collision use myself in the last ~10-15 years of using ruby, in regards to English. But the extra require line indeed was an obstacle to making use of English.rb more for me (mostly due to convenience or also because I may forget it).

##### #3 - 12/26/2017 08:09 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Status changed from Open to Closed

We are discussing removing those weird global variables (for Ruby3).

Even if we cannot remove them, we'd like to provide the alternative way to access the info (e.g. Regexp.last\_match for \$~). If any of those variables will survive, I'd love to provide the aliases for those variables. Wait for Ruby3.

I'd close the issue for now.

Matz.

##### #4 - 12/26/2017 08:12 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Related to Feature #14240: warn four special variables: \$; \$, \$/ \$\ added

**#5 - 06/18/2020 09:22 AM - hsbt (Hiroshi SHIBATA)**

- Related to Feature #16963: Remove English.rb from Ruby 2.8/3.0 added