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“THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE”

**WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO LEARN ENGLISH?**

**ПОЧЕМУ ТАК ВАЖНО ИЗУЧАТЬ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК?**

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INTRODUCTION

The topic of this research study “Why is it so important to learn English?” was not chosen accidentally. Nowadays the English language surrounds us everywhere. It is the official language in most of countries. It is estimated that the number of people in the world that use in English to communicate on a regular basis is 2 billion. [1] That is why I decided to explore this topic to make sure that learning the English language is so important in our life.

**The relevance** of this research is that the author gives own opinion of need to the study of English language.

**The aim** of the research is to identify the reasons why it is so important to learn English.

We hypothesized that is English the means of unification people from different countries.

The following **objectives** have been stated:

* to study the internet-resources on the theme of research;
* to get acquainted with the history of the English language;
* to identify the reasons why it is so important to know foreign language;
* to analyze the data obtained in the course of the study.

**The object of the research** is the English language.

**The subject of the research** is carrying out research on the English language and identification of its importance.

The methods of the research – interviewing, analysis, processing of the data and summary.

Novelty of the given research work is in creation of the materials on the topic of the research by means of interviewing and Internet-interviewing people.

Theoretical significance of the research is in that the results can be used on the English lessons.

Practical significance of the research consists of the creation of booklet and audio materials obtained in the course of the study.

In our work we used theoretical and practical research methods, namely:

* interviewing;
* analysis and processing of the data on the reasons of learning foreign language;
* summary.

Chapter 1 What is English?

English is the language of the English. It is the official language of England and the United Kingdom, US residents, one of the two official languages of Ireland, Canada and Malta, Australia, New Zealand, Africa and in some Asian countries like India, Pakistan etc. Speakers in English in linguistics are called Anglophones; this term is especially common in Canada (including in the political context). [2]

1.1 A short history of the origins and development of English

The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders – mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles came from Englaland and their language was called Englisc – from which the words England and English are derived. [3]



1.1 – Germanic invaders entered Britain on the east and south coasts in the 5th century.

1.1.1 Old English

The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words “be, strong” and “water”, for example, derive from Old English. Old English was spoken until around 1100. [3]



1.1.1 – Part of Beowulf, a poem written in Old English.

1.1.2 Middle English

In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (part of modern France), invaded and conquered England. The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court, and the ruling and business classes. For a period there was a kind of linguistic class division, where the lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French. In the 14th century English became dominant in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. It was the language of the great poet Chaucer (1340-1400), but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today. [3]



1.1.2 – An example of Middle English by Chaucer.

1.1.3 Modern English

Early Modern English (1500-1800). Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16th century the British had contact with many peoples from around the world. This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of London, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published. [3]



1.1.3 – Hamlet’s famous “To be, or not to be” lines, written in Early Modern English by Shakespeare.

Late Modern English (1800 – Present). The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the British Empire at its height covered one quarter of the earth’s surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries. [3]

1.2 Varieties of English

From around 1600, the English colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American variety of English. Some English pronunciations and words “froze” when they reached America. In some ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare than modern British English is. Some expressions that the British call “Americanisms” are in fact original British expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost for a time in Britain (for example “trash” for rubbish, “loan” as a verb instead of lend, and “fall” for autumn; another example, “frame-up”, was re-imported into Britain through Hollywood gangster movies). Spanish also had an influence on American English (and subsequently British English), with words like “canyon, ranch, stampede and vigilante” being examples of Spanish words that entered English through the settlement of the American West. French words (through Louisiana) and West African words (through the slave trade) also influenced American English (and so, to an extent, British English).

Today, American English is particularly influential, due to the USA’s dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade and technology (including the Internet). But there are many other varieties of English around the world, including for example Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English. [3]

As we can see the English language passed by a long period of development and becoming till now.

Chapter 2 Research work

2.1 Why is it so important to learn English?

Philippe Bouvard once said: “When you travel without knowing English, you begin to understand what means to be born deaf-and-dumb and feeble-minded”. [4] I agree with this aphorism. It is really so because English is the most useful language in the world. We may wish that Russian, French or Chinese were the international language, but the real situation is that wherever you go in the world, the common language is English.

Today we live in a very connected world, so that even if you live in an isolated place, it is very easy for you to connect with people, movies, music, culture, or whatever you want via the Internet. You can of course do this in whatever language you are interested in, but English is the most useful, since more people speak it.

Now I would like to speak about personalize the learning process because it is important too. It isn’t enough to want to be fluent in English. In order to actually learn English, you have to like learning English. That doesn’t mean that you have to like everything about the culture of English-speaking countries. You don’t have to like all American music or all British, Australian, Canadian or American people you meet. You don’t have to like them all, but you have to find something you like: music, movies, books and a friend.

You have to find something you like and then devote yourself to cultivating that relationship with the book, person, music or whatever it is and not worry too much about your grammar or speaking correctly. These things don’t matter so much. [Most people who use English as a second language make mistakes.](https://www.lingq.com/blog/2016/12/08/common-mistakes-english-even-native-speakers-make/)

The important thing is to be able to communicate, because we live in this interconnected world today. We are sharing this world. All people who live in the world are sharing it at the same time. We are alive at the same time and have the ability to connect with people who are sharing this moment in this enormous history of our planet.

And I think it’s worth it to connect with other people who live in different countries, to connect with their culture and their way of thinking, is tremendously enriching to your life. It will enable you to be more successful because through your language [you will be able to access more opportunities and connections.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9bMHMxglNI&t=2s) Not because you get a job as a translator, but because if you are somewhere travelling and find yourself sitting on a plane beside someone who is from Turkey, if you have a common language, you can speak to that person. Most likely that common language will be English.

From that you will meet people who will be helpful to you or will in other ways enrich your life because they will become friends. [5]

2.2 Reasons why learning English is so important

There are several factors that make the English language essential to communication in our current time. First of all, it is the most common foreign language. This means that two people who come from different countries (for example, a Mexican and a Swede) usually use English as a common language to communicate. That’s why everyone needs to learn the language in order to get in touch on an international level. Speaking it will help you communicate with people from countries all over the world, not just English-speaking ones. [6]

On the basis of it I have conducted a survey among the schoolmates, my friends, teachers and acquaintances in order to find out why learning English is important and reasons which prove that the English language is essential one. I asked one question “Why is it so important to learn English?” and I have received the following answers. The most popular answers were:

* The English language is the most popular language in the world because lots of events and different song contests are passed in English.
* Travel. With good understanding and communication in English, you can travel around the globe. Because it is the international language for foreigners, it's easy to get assistance and help in every part of world.
* English is the International Common Tongue. As I have mentioned earlier, English is a common language to communicate. It will help you communicate with people from countries all over the world.
* The Internet and Press. On the Internet, the majority of websites are written and created in English. Even sites in other languages often give you the option to translate the site. It's the primary language of the press: more newspapers and books are written in English than in any other language, and no matter where in the world you are, you will find some of these books and newspapers available.
* Getting a good job. English is the language of science, of aviation, computers, diplomacy, and tourism. Knowing English increases your chances of getting a good job in a multinational company within your home country or of finding work abroad.
* Education. English is also essential to the field of education. In many countries, children are taught and encouraged to learn English as a second language. Even in countries where it is not an official language, such as the Netherlands or Sweden, we will find many syllabi in science and engineering are written in English. Because it is the dominant language in the sciences, most of the research and studies you find in any given scientific field will be written in it as well. At the university level, students in many countries study almost all their subjects in English in order to make the material more accessible to international students.
* Entertainment. English is the language of the media industry. If you speak English, you won't need to rely on translations and subtitles anymore to enjoy your favourite books, songs, films and TV shows.
* You will learn about culture. [Language and culture cannot be separated](http://languageandculture.com/cultures-languages%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Language is culture, and culture is language. Simply said, knowing English will give you a better understanding of people who live in English-speaking countries. Knowing the English language gives you more insight into how people think, live and work. If you do not know about the culture of English-speaking countries, this might lead to misunderstanding what people are saying in English.
* You can become better educated. Not only does knowing a [foreign language expand your brain power](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html?_r=2&" \t "_blank), but you can use your knowledge of English to learn more and more things about the world. These days it is relatively easy to take an English class. Whether you take this class [online](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/online-english-courses/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), on [Skype](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/online-english-speaking-lessons-courses/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or in the classroom, there are many options out there. You can learn some new things, slang words or modern abbreviations and so on.
* You can improve your understanding of science. [English is the language of science](http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-10-06/how-did-english-become-language-science%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). If you want to learn, publish or speak with authority in the sciences, you must learn English. Pharmacists, engineers and doctors around the world must always learn English along with their other subjects in university. In most cases, their other class subjects are taught in English or come with an English textbook. [Most medical schools in America require English as part of their coursework](https://career.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/MedSchoolReqs.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). In other countries, this happens too. Science research is primarily published in English, and most abstracts (the summary of the research) are written in English so that international scientists can read them.
* You can date more people. You will be happy to know that English will increase the number of people you could possibly date. Try meeting people who speak English [on a dating site](http://www.top10bestdatingsites.com/?bkw=datings%20sites&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=dating%20sites%20in%20english&utm_campaign=Bing+CPC+Campaign&c=2878786235&m=p&k=14890780765&a=01" \t "_blank), through [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com" \t "_blank) or another social media site. English speakers are generally very understanding when talking to people who are learning English, and they have plenty of patience. Do not worry if your English skills are not perfect yet. You are already very interesting because you are bilingual.
* You can improve your confidence. I doubt there is any person alive who does not wish they could speak another language. It is a skill that everyone would love to add to their resume. With a little bit of studying every day, you can have this skill. Then you can be very proud of your ability to communicate with a wide variety of people. Learning a language is hard and everyone knows it. People will automatically respect your commitment to learning and maintaining your English. Your ability to help and communicate with people will help you earn respect. People will also seek you out to learn about you and your perspective on things. They will be interested in you and your experience in life. They will want to know the thoughts, hopes, fears and opinions of someone from another culture. When you feel more like you are more interesting, you will feel more special and confident.
* You will exercise your brain. Learning English will make you smarter and keep your brain strong.
* Sporting events. Major sporting events such as the Olympics are held in English, and so are international conferences, so competitors and delegates will need to be able to speak English to be able to get the most out of taking part. [8]

Looking through these answers we can see that the importance of learning English is real need in our modern society. The English language is necessary in each sphere of life.

CONCLUSION

English is the fourth most widely spoken native language in the world, and in terms of sheer number of speakers, it is the most spoken official language in the world. It is the primary language used in international affairs. The English language has official status even in nations where it is not the primary spoken language. English is indisputably the primary language of global trade and commerce. In many countries, most tourism authorities and other officials in contact with the public speak English to interact and engage with tourists and immigrants.

Summing up the work, we can come to the following conclusions:

* English is the language of science and technology, English speakers have more opportunities to work with others in these fields and to share ideas and innovations;
* Being able to speak English makes it easier to travel. Because English is spoken as a first or second language in so many different countries, it is always easy to find English speakers as well as printed information in English, especially at hotels and in areas frequented by tourists.
* People who speak English have more job opportunities. Businesses need employees who can communicate fluently with English-speaking partners and clients. In addition, entrepreneurs can access a far wider range of customers online by using English. In the U.S. or other English-speaking countries, people who can’t speak English are at a real economic disadvantage.
* The English language is used in each sphere of life.

The number of English speakers around the world has been on the rise for many years, with the current number approaching 2 billion, according to some estimates. The fact that so many people now use English as either the first or second language indicates that English is likely to remain a globally dominant language for many years to come. This is the importance of English.

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