

## WHY IS LEARNING ENGLISH SO BENEFICIAL NOWADAYS?

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Motto: *“You live a new life for every  
new language you speak.”*

(Czech proverb)

The English language has been the common language of the world for decades. It is now impossible to find a country where learning English has not become a norm. While there are some people who would like to stick with their native language and who would prefer not to learn English, the benefits of learning and mastering English goes beyond the four corners of one’s own country. **English is the most spoken language around the world.** 1 out of 5 persons understands it. It is estimated that there are 380 million native speakers and 300 million that utilize English as a second language and an additional 100 million who use it as a foreign language. It is the language of science, of aviation, computers, diplomacy, and tourism. English is the official or co-official language from 45 countries and is spoken extensively in other countries where it does not have official position because it is needed in many fields and jobs.

Learning English as a foreign language allows you to fully appreciate the culture and its context of a country, **it widens your understanding.** By understanding a person’s culture, for example, you can avoid situations which could cause misunderstandings. Being able to understand other cultures and through learning a foreign language you can bridge the gap between cultures, which would be a powerful tool in today’s modern world. It also **increases your understanding of your own culture.** If you study English and its culture, you will be able to see your own culture from another perspective. Encountering other cultures will allow you to question things that you’ve taken to be universal.

Studying a foreign language will give you the unique opportunity of stepping outside the boundary of your everyday life. Experiences of other cultures and your personal development through the study of a foreign language will greatly shape your identity and heighten your self-awareness.

If you master English, you will **enjoy travelling** more. You will also be able to travel around the entire world! Even if you’re not going to an English speaking country, it is very likely that locals will understand you if you speak in English. Being able to travel and fully immerse yourself in the country and culture is a fantastic way to holiday. Whenever you wish to travel someplace, you have to communicate. If you don’t know the language of the country where you intend to go, just try speaking English and you would be understood right away. Now imagine yourself traveling to a country, and you don’t know how to speak English. The encounter with a foreigner would be a disaster if you don’t know how to explain or ask questions in English. In effect, if you have already learned English, talking to a foreigner would prove to be an easy time. Having studied English you will feel comfortable in ordering food, understanding directions, being able to fully travel on public transport and save considerable money and maybe even battle for things in shops.

Through English, **you can discover entertainment from around the world.** Many of the most famous movies or songs are written in English. You’ll be able to understand them. If you learn English, you’ll be able to visit most websites. There are so many great books, films and music from many countries around the world. A translation or dub is just not the same as many elements of language simply can’t be translated

literally from one language to another. To be able to access the world's great wealth of literature, music, film and theatre you should do them justice and enjoy them in their original form. Learning English as a foreign language will certainly open your eyes to amazing things.

Speaking English is a **tremendous asset for your professional career**. We also need to learn English especially if we will be working at firms or other companies where English is the medium of communication. Instructions would be clearly understood, and therefore the room for error is minimized. A fundamental element of business is being able to sell a product. Selling is all well and good in your own country, but what happens when it comes to selling in a foreign market? To sell you must understand the values and morals of the people you are selling to. We live in a truly global economy and companies constantly expanding overseas. A more recent development is the globalisation of countries from less developed countries, such as China and Thailand, to English speaking countries. These factors create strong demand for English speakers – businesses need you and are willing to pay for you! Despite what career you choose on, or whatever your life aims, it's obvious that learning English won't hurt you. The likelihood is that job opportunities would open up to you that wouldn't have and what's for sure is that you will have much more earning power. And at the very least, you certainly will stand out against a monolingual job candidate.

In the case of an **emigration**, when you move to a different country or region, learning English will help you to communicate and integrate with the local community. Even if many of the locals speak your language, it's still worth your while learning English. Doing so will demonstrate your interest in and commitment to the new country. At the same time, an immigrant who would try to explain himself to his boss and co-employees would be clearly understood if he could construct his ideas into a single coherent thought. This can only be achieved by learning English seriously. For those immigrants who are in the process of looking for a job, a mastery of the English language would put them at a higher leverage compared to those who don't. Considering that communication is an essential

component in a workplace, persons who are able to communicate well using the English language would always have an advantage over others.

By learning English, you **develop life skills**. Learning a foreign language involves different learning skills and helps develop key skills through listening, writing and reading. This in turn will help actually help you improve in other areas too. Your general reading and mental skills improve through studying a language. In fact, if studied from a young age, there will be a very noticeable benefit to cognitive development, such as creativity, problem-solving and reasoning. But in addition to these skills, learning a foreign language will give you important life skills. You will be better able to adapt and cope with changes and to deal with unfamiliar and new situations. You will also find that you are better able to communicate with people from all walks of life.

Research has shown that having an understanding of English as a foreign language also **helps your native language development**. It has been found that students can develop better vocabularies and an improved level of literacy all through studying a foreign language. In fact, studies have shown that students' exam scores have improved year-on-year for every year a foreign language is studied.

You will also **make life-time friendships**. Studying English and all the opportunities it can bring will definitely increase the number of people on the globe who you can meet and communicate with. Be it meeting international students, immigrants in your community and establishing new relationships with people overseas, studying a foreign language really can change your life for the better.

Also, if you speak English, you may **stand out when applying for higher education**. Why not combine your studies with travelling and find out about study abroad programmes? The benefits of studying a foreign language in a study overseas programme is that you will be practicing all the time – as soon as you step out the classroom you will be putting what you learnt into practice. Compared to studying in a school in your own country, the benefits are two-fold: much quicker development of your language skills and the chance to study the foreign language's culture

and context. Being able to show to university admission clerks that you have previously studied a foreign language could add significant weight to your applications. You will show that you are a more rounded and educated person – the sort of thing that admission clerks absolutely love. If you are looking to study a postgraduate for example, English may well be a prerequisite of admission. This is especially relevant for those students considering PhD applications as research is often published in books and professional journals around the globe. If you are a student, or just eager to learn, to understand English is almost mandatory since many publications are in English.

English is not hard to learn, compared to many other foreign languages. Learn English **for the pleasure!** Learning a language, especially English, is rewarding when you see you're improving. **Learning English takes time and dedication.** The reasons above may help to convince you to take the plunge, if such persuasion is needed. Some reasons are practical, some aspirational, some intellectual and others sentimental, but whatever your reasons, having a clear idea of why you're learning a language

can help to motivate you in your studies. The English language plays an important role in all aspects of society, and therefore learning and mastering it would greatly give advantage to the person concerned.

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