

250. WHY DOES A PROGRAMMER NEED ENGLISH?

Konoplyanko M.S.

*Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics
Minsk, Republic of Belarus*

Sinkevich L.E. – Senior Lecturer

The importance of English for programmers is discussed in this paper. The study concludes that English is a necessity for programmers in their career development to learn new technologies and communicate with other specialists.

In the modern technological world, the English language plays a very important role in professional development of programmers. Programming is an international field, and most professional communication takes place in English. Knowledge of English helps programmers to learn new technologies, understand technical documentation, and communicate with other specialists.

First of all, most major programming languages (Python, Java, C++, JavaScript) are based on English vocabulary. Commands and keywords such as “function”, “return”, “class”, and “import” come from English. When programmers write code, they constantly encounter these words and use them. Understanding the meaning of these terms makes it easier to read code and realize how programs work.

Another important reason, which proves that learning English for programmers becomes a necessity, it is the ability to read technical documentation. This kind of documentation explains how a programming language, library, or framework works. Almost all official guides and manuals are written in English. For example, developers should read documentation from companies such as Google or Microsoft to learn how to use their technologies. If programmers have good English skills, they can follow instructions and use tools more effectively.

Programming is not only about writing code but also about fixing errors. When programmers face a problem, they usually search for solution on the internet platforms like Stack Overflow, where developers from all over the world share their experience. The English language accounts for approximately 49.4 % of all website content as of March 2026 [1]. Therefore, being fluent in English is the true time-saver, letting programmers look through such endless technical debates in order to find out the key solution to their programming matters quickly, without having to translate every single sentence.

In addition, English helps programmers to communicate with international teams. Many IT companies hire employees from different countries, and 90 % of project documentation is written in English. If a company interacts with international clients or partners, it will be impossible to work on the project without English. Understandable communication is significant for effective teamwork, and that's why the capacity to convey thoughts clearly would help to avoid misunderstandings and improve cooperation between specialists [2].

Here are some key statistics about the use of English that prove its dominance in the IT and digital world:

1. Web Content: Nearly 50 % of the internet is in English.
2. Top Languages: English is the most-used language, far outpacing Spanish (6 %), German (6 %), and Japanese (5.1 %).
3. Global Usage: Approximately 1.35 billion to 1.5 billion people speak English worldwide, but only about 370-400 million are native speakers, meaning it is the lingua franca for technology, with roughly 3 non-native speakers for every native speaker.
4. Employment: 98.5 % of employers in 38 countries assess English competence, with higher compensation often tied to proficiency.

Finally, English helps programmers in their career development. Lots of online courses, 85 % of international professional conferences, and 50 % of research articles are written in English. Motivated and ambitious programmers often turn to such resources to keep up with the times and industry trends, be able to generate modern code, withstand rivalry with professional colleagues, and just to gain the courage to ask for promotion. According to the American IT company HackerRank, developers with knowledge of English earn 30-50 % more than employees who do not speak English [3].

In conclusion, English is an essential skill for programmers. It helps them to read documentation, solve technical problems, communicate with colleagues, and grow professionally. Therefore, learning English is a valuable investment for anyone who wants to become a successful programmer.

References:

1. W3Techs: [technological database]. – 2025. – URL: https://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/content_language (date of access: 08.03.2026).
2. Интернет-портал IT-academy: [сайт]. – Минск, 2026. – URL: <https://www.it-academy.by/media/stati/do-you-speak-english/> (дата обращения: 09.03.2026).
3. Oxford English for Information Technology. – Oxford University Press, 2006.