

EDUPRENEURSHIP LECTURING SERIES
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Which English language skills are needed for the future?



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT



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How many employers around the world need employees with English language skills?

We [surveyed 5,300 employers in 38 countries](#). We found that English is important all over the world. Even in countries where English is not an official language, over two thirds of employers say English is important for their business.



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Did you know?

- Roughly 85% of international organisations use English as one of their working languages.
- Over 80% of academic journals are written in English.

The background features a light grey and white geometric design with overlapping triangles. At the bottom, there is a dark red horizontal band containing several red books of varying sizes and colors, some with gold lettering on their spines. The word "education" is written in a large, bold, light green font across the bottom of the page, partially overlapping the books.

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A Respondent comment:

'English is the real global language and is important in education, relations and business. I am the Chairman of one of the largest Italian Bank Foundations and we are dealing with more than 100 countries. Our work language is English.'

Professor Francesco Profumo, Politecnico di Torino, Italy



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What do employers say are the most important English skills?

Overall, employers say they want all four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening). So it's important to practise all of them.

Employers say that the *most* important language skill is reading (in 12 industries) and then speaking (in eight industries).

Reading in English is important for developing professional knowledge. It's the language most often used in international publications, contracts and instructions.

Speaking is the most important skill in service industries such as Travel and Hospitality, where customer service is a big part of the job.



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What level of English is needed?

Employers have a wide range of English language needs:

- In countries where English is not an official language: most employers say they need an advanced or intermediate level of English.
- In English-speaking countries: most employers say they need an advanced level of English.

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What level of English is needed? (Cont)

The highest English language requirements are in business sectors, such as Banking, Finance and Law, where business materials often use advanced and technical English.

Language requirements are lower in Travel, Hospitality, Transportation, Distribution and Utilities, possibly because customer-facing roles use more everyday English.



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Do employers already have enough English-speaking staff?

In recent years, there has been unprecedented investment in English language learning. However, employers still say there is a gap between the English language skills they need and the skills that are actually available:

- In countries where English is not an official language: 67% of employers have an English language skills gap.
- In English-speaking countries: 22% of employers have an English language skills gap.



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OPPORTUNITIES

A Respondent Comment:

Insights from the Findings ‘ The only way to have a generation with a good command of the language is to start them at a young age in school, which was how it was during my time. My command of the national language certainly did not suffer for the good command of English that I have.’

Doreen Goh, Managing Director, YSG Biotech, Malaysia

Insights from the Findings

1. The size of the English language skills gap shows how prevalent English requirements have become – in all industries, all organisation sizes, and at all management levels. English language skills have never been more essential to succeed and progress at work.
2. Over 80% of academic journals are written in English.



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LINGUAPRENEURSHIP

Jobs directly related to your degree include:

- **Early Childhood Education Provider**
- **English Tutor**
- **Journal Editor**
- **English Translator**
- **English Proofreader**
- **English Interpreter**

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THANK YOU

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