

Need of LSRW Skills for the Students of Science and Technology

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Abstract

English may not be the most spoken language in the world, but it is the official language in a large number of countries. It is estimated that the number of people in the world who use English to communicate on a regular basis is 2 billion! English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce. Research from all over the world shows that cross-border business communication is most often conducted in English. Its importance in the global market place therefore cannot be under-stated. *The four skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) are necessary for all the people living on the earth.* Learning English will really change one's life. Many of the world's top films, books and music are published and produced in English. Therefore by learning English one will have access to a great wealth of

entertainment and will be able to have a greater cultural understanding. Most of the content produced on the internet is in English. So knowing English will allow a person to access to an incredible amount of information which may not be otherwise available. Although learning English can be challenging and time consuming, we can see that it is also very valuable to learn and can create many opportunities.

Key Words: English, fluency, important, language, learn, method, speak, world

Language is our primary source of communication. It's the method through which we share our ideas and thoughts with others. Some people even say that language is what separates us from animals and makes us human. There are thousands of languages in this world. Countries have their own national languages in addition to a variety of local languages spoken and understood by their people in different regions. Some languages are spoken by millions of people, others by only a few thousand.

English was originally the language of England, but through the historical efforts of the British Empire it has become the primary or secondary language of many former British colonies such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and India. Currently, English is the primary language of not only countries actively touched by British imperialism, but also many business and cultural spheres dominated by those countries. It is the language of Hollywood and the language of international banking and business. As such, it is a useful and even necessary language to know.

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 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 a person to communicate with people from countries all over the world, not just English-speaking ones.

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.

Many writers across world agree that English is the '*Queen of Languages*'. Shri C. Rajagopalachari once wrote "English language is the greatest gift of Goddess Saraswati to India". The United Nations Organization (UNO) has given English the status of an official language. It is not just because it is one of the most widely spoken languages, but also because the use of English has made the social and economic exchange between people of different communities and cultures practically possible. It is well recognized that English-speaking persons can be traced in all the continents of the world and is the reason for its importance in the compulsory education of many countries across the globe. It is not only used in public and private offices but also in education institutions, media, sports and business. If it were not for English, we would not have seen India's heading large corporate or occupying key positions in organizations across the globe.

India is a country with diverse regions and people with diverse languages are its citizens. People are so attached, and naturally so, with their local languages, that they sometimes end up treating people speaking other languages as foreigners or strangers. As India was a British Colony, English became an official language of India, for all diplomatic and administrative conveniences, and thereby came to be widely used in both spoken and literary contexts. But the reason that English remained an official language after 1947 is attributed to the fact that as a language it played an important role in unifying regions with different people under one flag and constitution. So, English could be rightly termed as the *Lingua Franca* of India. In a country where Individual mother tongues number several hundred, and where over 30 languages are spoken by more than a million native speakers, English is one common language that is used by people from diverse backgrounds in India as an acceptable vehicular language with high levels of adoption over decades.

Historically, since its introduction to India, English as a language has played an important role in media and education. A large number of books are published in English in India. India is the third largest English book producing country after the United States and the U.K.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "*English is a language of international commerce, it is the language of diplomacy and it contains many a rich literary treasure; it gives us an introduction to western thought and culture.*"

English is the chief language in the Indian education system today. All the prestigious schools and colleges use English as their medium of instruction. Today, careers in the field of science and technology, business and commerce require a good knowledge of English. Most of the works in the field of space, nuclear technology, medicine etc. are available only in English. The vocabulary and terminology used in these are available in English. Therefore, English has become a passport for getting a good job not only in India but also abroad in almost all fields. With the growing importance of computers in every field, the English language has received a further boost. The Radhakrishna University Education Commission recommended that *“English is a language which is rich in literature-humanistic, scientific and technical. If under sentimental-urges, we give up English, we would cut ourselves off from the living stream of ever-growing knowledge.”*

Interestingly, apart from the schooling and organized education systems prevalent in India, the competitive examination scenario also reflects importance of English. Most of the general tests, both the admissions-tests and the job-related tests, have a complete section on English language. They are designed to test the candidate's power of expression, flair in English, comprehension skills, sound vocabulary as well as correct use of language. English constitutes a major portion of almost all competitive examinations.

English has taken deep roots in India. It is no more a typical English spoken in England or in the United States but has acquired an Indian character. Indians have achieved a great proficiency in it and have Indianised it. Such evolution is not limited to the urban population base, but it is happening across the semi-urban and rural India as well. Due to this proficiency, the mass of English-speaking Indians that are versed not just linguistically but have knowledge of diverse industries is increasing, thereby galvanizing presence of many MNCs especially the BPOs/KPOs to setup their base in India. In reciprocation, several words from Indian languages have officially been added to the English dictionaries over the years! English is an international language. It is the window to the world. It has become a *'must have'* to remain in touch with the outside world. It is a language of opportunity. With the advent of Telecommunication Industry and the Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Industry, along with the big role Indians have played in the development of computers and software industry globally, the opportunities are galore for the English speaking Indians. F.G. French observes that it is only through this language that we have *“distilled essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity. Anyone who can read English can keep in touch with the world without leaving his own house.”*

The word *communication* in English is making a charisma in these days. It has the power to make the whole world revolve around it. It is central to all activities. Everybody has realized the importance of communication and therefore, they want to be a better communicator. It has left no field untouched: be it a medical, or engineering, Arts or Law, or even Sports or Music. In commerce or Business it has become a must. *In academics if one ignores English and communication he or she will literally ruin.* It won't be an exaggeration to say that it will be difficult to survive without communication. If one wants to earn bread and butter, he or she will have to learn communication. If a person desires to give voice to his/her requirements, they have to learn communication. If a good job is to be bagged, one has to be fit and capable for it. Even in the case of a promotion, one has to impress the boss with effective communication.

15 EASY METHODS TO IMPROVE LSRW Skills

1. Speak little English every day: The absolute best way to learn any new language is just to speak it. It doesn't matter if you only know five English words or if you're practically fluent -- speaking English with another person is the fastest, most effective method of improving.

✚ Don't wait until you "feel more comfortable" speaking in English -- you probably won't reach that level for a long time, so push yourself outside of your comfort zone and start speaking English today. You'll be amazed at how quickly your language skills improve.

✚ Find a native English speaker who is willing to spend some time speaking English with you -- you may be able to offer them a language exchange, where they spend 30 minutes speaking English with you and you spend 30 minutes speaking your native language with them.

✚ You can practice by starting simple conversations with the people you meet, whether it's saying "hello" to a shopkeeper or asking a stranger for directions.

2. Work on your pronunciation: Even if you have an acceptable grasp of the English language, with good grammar and an extensive vocabulary, native English speakers may find you very difficult to understand if you don't work on your pronunciation.

✚ Correct, clear pronunciation is essential if you really want to improve your level of English. Listen closely to how native English speakers pronounce certain words and sounds and do your best to copy them.

✚ Pay particular attention to any sounds that you are unfamiliar with or that do not exist in your native tongue. For example some people have difficulty pronouncing the "r"

sound, as it does not exist in their native language, while other people have difficulty with certain consonant clusters, such as the "th" sound.

✚ Be aware that the pronunciation of certain English words varies greatly depending on the part of the world it's spoken in. For example, American English is very different from British English. If you intend to travel to or live in an English-speaking country, this is something you should take into account when learning how to pronounce certain words.

3. Expand your vocabulary and use idiomatic phrases: The wider your vocabulary and the more English phrases you learn, the easier speaking English will become.

✚ Spending time with native English speakers will help you to pick up on common vocabulary and phrases in a natural way. Although reading, watching English TV and listening to the news is also beneficial.

✚ Once you have learned a new word or phrase, you should make an effort to use it in a sentence -- this is the best way to commit it to memory.

✚ Another easy way to commit new words to memory is to make labels for everyday household items and stick them around your house or apartment. Then every time you use the kettle or look in the mirror, you will see the English word for these items staring back at you.

✚ You should also start a notebook of idiomatic phrases that English speakers use all the time. Some examples include "it's raining cats and dogs" (raining heavily), to be on "cloud nine" (to be very happy) or saying something is a "piece of cake" (when something is very easy). Sprinkling these kinds of phrases into your conversation will bring your level of English up several notches.

4. Attend an English class or discussion group: Another great way to incorporate some extra English conversation into your weekly routine is to sign up for a class or discussion group.

✚ Attending an English class is a great way to focus on some of the more formal aspects of speaking English. A class will teach you the grammatically correct way of speaking -- which includes proper sentence structure and verb conjugation and will generally provide a very structured approach to language learning.

✚ Attending a discussion group is a more informal and relaxed way of learning English, where the emphasis is more on communication and relationship building than on speaking "correct" English. Speaking English in this setting can help you to become more comfortable with speaking in front of other people. Both of these language-learning settings have their pros and cons, so it's best to do both if you can!

5. Carry a Dictionary: Carrying an English dictionary with you at all times (whether it's an actual book or a phone app) can be very useful.

✚ Having a dictionary means that you will never be stuck for a word. It can save you a lot of embarrassment if you're having a conversation with an English-speaker and forget a word in the middle of the sentence -- all you have to do is take a second to look it up!

✚ It is also helpful to have a dictionary to peruse throughout the day during private moments, like when you're sitting on the train, waiting to cross the street or just having a cup of coffee. You could learn an extra 20 to 30 English words per day using this technique!

✚ As a beginner, you should start with an English dictionary that provides definitions in your native language. However, once your language skills improve, you should switch to using an English-English dictionary, which provides English definitions for English words.

6. Listen to English radio or podcasts: One of the best ways to improve your English listening comprehension is to download English-language podcasts or radio apps on your phone or MP3 player.

✚ Make an effort to listen to the podcasts or radio shows for at least 30 minutes per day. Do it in the gym, on your commute to work, or while you're sitting at your computer.

✚ Always try to understand what's being said, don't just let the English wash over you. Even if you find it too fast, try to pick out key words and phrases to get a general idea of what the conversation is about.

✚ If you can, make a note of words or phrases that you don't understand and look up the translation afterwards. Then listen to the podcast or show again to hear the new words or phrases in context.

7. Watch English movies and TV shows: Another fun way to improve your listening comprehension is to watch English movies and TV shows.

✚ Try to pick movies or TV shows that you will enjoy -- this will make the exercise feel like less of a chore. If possible, choose movies or shows that you are already familiar with, such as children's cartoons or blockbuster films. If you already know the basic story you will find the language much easier to pick up on.

✚ Avoid watching movies or television shows with subtitles in your native language -- they will only distract you and make you less inclined to focus on understanding the English, which is the whole point of the exercise.

8. Read an English book, newspaper or magazine: Reading is an essential part of learning a new language, so don't forget to practice!

✚ Find something you are really interested in -- whether that's a famous English novel, *The New York Times* or a fashion magazine and start working your way through it. If you find the content boring, you will be less inclined to persevere with it.

✚ Make an active effort to actually understand what you're reading, don't just skim over it. Highlight any words or phrases that you don't understand, then look them up in the dictionary.

✚ If you're alone, you could also try reading aloud -- this will allow you to improve your reading comprehension while also working on your pronunciation.

9. Keep a diary in English: Aside from reading and listening comprehension,

✚ Spend some time working on your written English. This may be one of the most difficult aspects of your language learning, but it is important nevertheless. Writing in English will help you to work on your sentence structure, grammar and spelling.

✚ Try keeping an English diary in which you write down a few sentences every day. It doesn't have to be deeply personal -- you could write about the weather, what you ate for dinner or what your plans are for the day.

✚ Get a native speaker to look over what you've written and check it for any errors. This will help you to avoid making the same mistakes over and over again.

10. Find an English-speaking pen-pal: Once your written language skills have improved, you could consider getting an English-speaking pen-pal!

✚ Having an English-speaking pen-pal combines your English writing practice with the excitement of getting a letter or email!

✚ Your pen pal may be someone who is learning English like you, or they may be a native English speaker who wants to practice their foreign language skills by writing to you in your native tongue.

✚ Having a pen pal from an English-speaking country (such as the United States, Britain, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa, for example) will also allow you to learn more about the culture and what life is like in that part of the world.

11. Stay motivated: When learning any new language, it is important to stay motivated and never give up on your goal of fluency.

✚ Stay committed to your language-learning goal by reminding yourself of how badly you want to achieve it. Think of all of the amazing experiences and opportunities that will be available to you once you've mastered the English language.

✚ Converse with English speakers from across the world and develop new and exciting relationships, then you will be able to engage with English-speaking culture like never before and potentially further your career as a result of your new language skills.

12. Practice every day: If you want to gain fluency quickly, you need to commit to practicing *every day*.

✚ Learning a new language is based on repetition, so if you wait too long between study sessions, you will forget everything you learned previously and have to start all over again, wasting valuable time.

✚ Do not study so much that you grow sick of English -- try to keep things interesting by completing a different task each day - one day of reading, one day of listening comprehension, one day of writing practice, one day studying grammar, etc.

✚ Never miss or pass up an opportunity to practice *speaking* English, as this is the number one most important thing you can do to gain fluency.

13. Train yourself to think in English: One way to make the transition from being very good at English to being fluent is to train your brain to actually *think* in the English language.

✚ Constantly translating from your native language into English and back again inside your head consumes time and energy.

✚ Every language has its own nuances and peculiarities, which makes it impossible to accurately translate from one language to another in certain instances.

✚ Your spoken and written English will flow much more naturally and fluently if you can just train your brain to think in English. Think of it like a switch -- when it's time to communicate in English, you need to turn your English brain on and your mother language brain off!

14. Make friends with English speakers: One of the greatest tests of a person's fluency in a second language is to put them in a room with a bunch of native speakers and see if they can follow and contribute to the conversation.

✚ The best way to achieve this level of fluency is to make some English-speaking friends and hang out with them in a social setting, like in a cafe or canteen. This way, you will be forced to speak in English if you want to interact with your peers, but it won't feel like work or study because you'll be having so much fun!

✚ Always try to interact in English rather than in your mother tongue.

15. Don't be afraid: The biggest obstacle that stands in the way of learning a new language is the fear of making mistakes.

✚ Fear serves no purpose -- it is merely a hindrance that prevents you from reaching your goal of fluency.

✚ Don't be afraid of making a mistake and don't be shy! Of course you can't speak a new language perfectly at the start. Try to express yourself albeit with difficulty.

✚ Remember that *everyone* makes mistakes when they are learning a new language -- it's a rite of passage. You will almost certainly have your fair share of awkward or embarrassing moments when you accidentally say something rude or incorrect, but this is all part of the fun.

✚ Keep in mind that you are not aiming for perfection when learning to speak English, you are aiming for progress. Making mistakes is all part of the learning-process, they will help you to become better, so embrace them!

Conclusion

Language is the only way by which we can express our emotions, thoughts, desires ideas, feelings etc. English is that language which is spoken by many people. English is an International language. Whenever we want to know what is happening on the other side of the world, we get the news in English only. The literature around the world was written in many languages and can be understood by those people only, but if it is translated into English without disturbing its charm, many people (90 countries) can enjoy the flavour of literature. English has changed its forms many times- earlier it was old English, then middle English then early English and now modern English. Now-a-days English is being used as an official language and now it occupies the whole world and became a *global language*. So it is very important to know the English language. With the help of above mentioned strategies one may improve and improvise their LSRW Skills to any desirable extent that the overall communication skill of a person will be enhanced and enriched. Importance of English language learning has been the need of the hour these days in India and other non native speaking countries, which is where there lies an importance of guiding the students on the language focusing on LSRW method of learning a language.

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