

FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE MODERN WORLD

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People are interested in foreign languages now. They understand that it can help them in their career. The first American and British consulates General in Ekaterinburg, business and information centers, joint ventures, visits of foreign businessmen and cultural workers give people a lot of opportunities to show their knowledge.

French and German are popular; by the way French was very popular with Russian nobility. Some of them spoke French better than French people did. Pushkin wrote some poems in French. People translated and still translate different books from foreign languages into Russian for other people to read. Thanks to translators we know much about cultures, science, way of life, be it Great Britain or China. Different cultures influence each other and enrich each other, I think. This would be impossible if we didn't know each other's languages.

I study English. That's why I want to tell you about it.

English is a world language. It is the language of progressive science and technology, trade and cultural relations, commerce and business. It is the universal language of international aviation, shipping and sports. It is also the major language of diplomacy.

Hundreds and hundreds of books, magazines and newspapers are printed in English and read all over the world. 75% of the world's mail and 60% of the world's telephone calls are in English. Half of the world's scientific literature is written in English.

English is spoken by more than 350 million people. Geographically, it is the most widespread language on earth, second only to Chinese in the number of people who speak it.

It is the official language of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the United States of America, of Australia and New Zealand. English is used as one of the official languages in Canada, the Republic of South Africa and the Irish Republic. It is also spoken as a second language in many parts of India and Africa. The number of second-language speakers may soon exceed the number of native speakers.

Besides, millions of people study and use English as a foreign language. In our country English is very popular: it is studied at schools (sometimes even at nursery schools), colleges and universities.

There are different ways of mastering foreign languages. It is useful to read books in the original, listen to their songs or watch their films. But now there are foreign teachers in Ekaterinburg (I mean native speakers) more over, it is possible even to go abroad and study there. Some people do.

Learning a foreign language is not an easy thing. It is a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and patience. But to know English today is absolutely necessary for every educated person, for every good specialist.

Knowledge of foreign languages helps to promote cultural, educational and technical cooperation among nations. That's why one of the characteristic features of life in our country today is a great interest in the study of foreign languages — chiefly English.

At present English is the most important of the world's languages. In number of speakers it ranks second. The use of English in diplomacy, commerce and science is evidence of its importance.

That's why many millions of people learn it as a second language.

The growth in political, scientific, economic; cultural and educational contacts with different countries has set the scene for a renewed interest in foreign languages studies.

In our country English is taught in pedagogical institutes and universities.

Why is knowledge of foreign languages very important today?

Knowledge of foreign languages is very important today because it helps to promote cultural, scientific, technical cooperation among nations.

Where is English taught in our country?

In our country English is taught at schools, institutes and universities.

We live in the modern world and you can't imagine an educated person who doesn't know any foreign language. It is especially important nowadays. Some people learn languages because they need them in their work, others travel abroad.

English is a widely spoken language all over the world. You can hear it everywhere: in a street, in shops and restaurants, in offices. You don't need to know Japanese when you go to Japan, or French when you visit Paris. English will help you to understand each other.

A modern engineer or even a worker deals with instruments and machines from other countries and must be able to read the instructions, which are usually written in English. Computer programs and games, most of Internet pages are also written in English. Science magazines are mostly published in English and scientific and business conferences are held in English as well. Diplomats and militaries use English to solve their problems.

Besides, the knowledge of English helps to know more about the countries, read many books in the original and to make new friends.

That's why all pupils should master their English to become good specialist in any branch.