**English For Developers:**

**Why Language Skills Are Essential for a Career in Tech**

By [Steve Wayde Dames Jr](https://www.microverse.org/blog-authors/steve-wayde-dames-jr)

*The first "coding language" any developer should learn is not Python or Go. It's not even Kotlin or Javascript. To tell you the truth, it's English — the official language of software development. If you're aiming to get a job in a serious international company, then hop on. We’ll explore the essentials you need to give your career a boost.*

Many people wonder if they need to learn English to land a software development job. The common answer online? “*No, not necessarily*.”

Indeed, your coding skills matter the most. But let’s dig a bit deeper than “general online wisdom”.

Many developers struggle with English. [Take a look around forums](https://www.quora.com/Can-we-get-software-job-without-fluency-in-english) and you’ll see this can be a real barrier.

Consider awkward silence during job interviews. Imagine trying to participate in meetings with colleagues around the world. Then imagine collaborating on projects or writing technical documents. These tasks require a decent knowledge of English.

Here’s more…

Say Malik and Robin - junior developers at a job interview - are both great talents. In fact, their coding skills are identical. However, English isn't Robin's strong suit. For Malik though - who's been learning it since age six - English is almost a native language.

Who would you say is more likely to get a job, Robin or Malik?

Sure, you don't absolutely need English. We got that. But **being stronger in English could significantly improve your career path**. Wouldn't you agree?

***If you're a developer to land an international job faster speaking English is essential!***

## **Is English necessary in software development?**

Yes, English is necessary in software development. Here’s a quick list of things where you’ll need to know English right away.

Imagine you're a junior software developer who just landed a first job. On your first day, you find out quickly how important English is in your new role.

First, your team leads would tell you to (1) *read the documentation*. All those guides and manuals that explain how to use tools and write code? They're mostly in English. You need to understand these to do your job right and not have a panic attack.

Next up, (2) *writing code*. The programming languages themselves, like Python or Java, use English words for commands and functions. If you’re not comfortable with English, it would be like trying to cook a recipe without knowing the names of the ingredients.

Then there are (3) *meetings*. Your team uses English to discuss projects, solve problems, and share ideas. It helps everyone understand each other, even if they come from different countries.

In the world of software development, English acts like a bridge. It helps you and your teammates connect your ideas.

Without English, starting a new job would be a lot more stressful than it already is. Plus, you might also learn things slower, which could affect your career development.

## **Why Is English the Main Language in Information Technology (IT)?**

English has become the main language in Information Technology (IT) for several reasons.

[Historically](https://www.hp.com/us-en/shop/tech-takes/computer-history-programming-languages), many of the early computers and programming languages were developed in the United States and the United Kingdom. Countries where English is the primary language. This includes inventions like the first computers and programming languages like FORTRAN and COBOL.

Because these technologies were English-based, English naturally became the standard language as technology spread globally. Not to mention the fact that English is the [*lingua franca*](https://english.stackexchange.com/questions/5831/why-did-english-become-a-universal-language-and-when)*,* the common international language between speakers whose native languages are different.

Therefore, major programming languages, documentation, and software are primarily in English. This uniformity makes it easier for developers worldwide to work together and share ideas.

Moreover, many global IT companies are headquartered in English-speaking countries, and they influence global IT standards and practices. For example, tech giants like Microsoft, Google, and Apple, all based in the U.S., play significant roles in setting these standards.

Statistically, it's shown that [60.4% of the top 10 million websites](https://www.visualcapitalist.com/the-most-used-languages-on-the-internet/) are in English. This makes it essential for IT professionals worldwide to use English to stay updated and competitive in the field.

## **How can the English language help when working remotely?**

When you work with people from different places, knowing English can help a ton. First, as we said, it’s a common language that helps everyone understand each other better. By now you should understand how important it is when you need to follow instructions or share your ideas.

Furthermore, most tools we use for working together online, like email, video calls, and project management apps, are in English. If you know English well, you can use these tools easily without getting confused.

Another important thing… English helps you feel closer to your team, even if they live far away! This is super important for you to have a more pleasant experience in a company! We’re humans after all. Chatting and sharing things without language problems makes us feel the bond more strongly.

Lastly, many companies that hire people globally use English to talk to each other. This means if you're good at English, you will find more job opportunities. So, learning English not only helps you work better but also opens more chances for you to grow in your career.

Speaking of chances… if you want to stack the odds in your favor to get hired remotely you should [read these 7 tips to help you get a remote job](https://www.microverse.org/blog/the-most-powerful-tips-to-help-you-get-a-remote-job).

## **What is the best programming language to learn for software development?**

Frankly, it's not a question that can be easily answered. Choosing the best programming language for software development can be tricky because it depends on what you want to do.

For example, if you want to make websites, JavaScript might be the best to learn because it's used a lot for that. If you're interested in making computer programs, Python is a great choice because it's easy for beginners and very popular.

[Statistics show](https://www.statista.com/statistics/793628/worldwide-developer-survey-most-used-languages/) Python and JavaScript are among the most used and still-growing programming languages. This is because they are versatile and have a lot of resources to help beginners learn. That’s a plus if you think about the ease of learning.

However, the best language to learn also depends on the job market. For example, if you want to work in big tech companies, they might prefer languages like Java or C#. **It’s a good idea to look at job ads in the companies you would want to work for to see what languages they ask for.**

So, there isn't one "best" programming language for everyone. It really depends on your interests, what you want to create, and where you want to work.