# English for Developers – Advanced

Exploring the Role of English in Global Technology Careers

Analyze the text 'English for Developers' by Steve Wayde Dames Jr., focusing on critical reading, vocabulary development, and argumentative writing.

**Reading Comprehension**

Read the adapted article below and reflect on the author’s message about the importance of English in software development.

The first 'coding language' any developer should learn is not Python or Go. It's English — the official language of software development. English proficiency enhances your ability to read documentation, understand frameworks, collaborate in international teams, and communicate technical ideas clearly. In the global tech environment, English serves as the bridge that connects innovation and collaboration.

Although coding skills are the foundation of a developer’s success, communication in English often becomes the decisive factor in professional growth. From participating in meetings to writing clean documentation, English determines how effectively developers can share knowledge and integrate into diverse teams.

Historically, English became dominant in technology because early programming languages, research papers, and documentation originated in English-speaking countries. Today, major IT companies such as Microsoft, Google, and Apple continue to reinforce this standard, influencing the language of global innovation.

## Vocabulary in Context

Match the words with their meanings based on the context of the article.

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| --- | --- |
| Word / Expression | Meaning or Explanation |
| proficiency | ability or skill in a particular area |
| framework | a basic structure supporting a system or concept |
| collaboration | working together to achieve a goal |
| foundation | the base or starting point of something |
| diverse teams | groups made up of people from different backgrounds |

## Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your partner. Use specific examples to support your opinions.

1. **Why does the author call English the “first coding language”? Do you agree?**

Because almost all programming languages ​​are based on English. If you know at least the basics of English, it will be easier to learn a programming language. So, yes, I agree.

**2. Can a programmer be successful without knowing English? Why or why not?**

Yes, they'll have more difficulty learning the language, but they can learn without knowing English. Since a programming language is a language in itself. It uses English, of course, but you can associate the word with what they do in your code. For example: I know that when I use print("Lucas"), my program will print the name "Lucas" on the screen. So, you can make that kind of association, but since you already knew English, you knew that print would display something on the screen, so you don't need to test.

**3. How does English impact teamwork in multinational companies?**

Because these companies have people from different countries, they use English for communication, white papers, etc. So, basically, you need English to do your job. You won't have a translator communicating for you.

**4. Should programming education include mandatory English instruction? Explain your view.**

This is a tough question. Because, as I said before, I don't think you need to learn English to develop code, but if you do, your life will be easier and you'll have more job opportunities. Your life will be easier because the code and much of the documentation is in English. So, perhaps I think programming could include basic English classes, allowing people who know English to decide whether or not to take classes.

**5. What challenges might non-native English speakers face in global tech environments?**

The biggest problem is communication. It will be much harder to communicate with your coworkers. And if your company requires you to document your code, or if the company documents the project, you'll have trouble using Google Translate. Imagine this: you're hired as a programmer for a large company. But they already have a readymade software. So, you'll need to read the project documentation and understand the code. But they'll be in English, so it will take you a long time to understand everything if you don't know English.

## Part 4 – Writing Task

Write an argumentative paragraph (120–150 words) on one of the topics below. Use connectors such as \*however, therefore, although, as a result,\* and \*in addition\* to structure your ideas clearly.

Topics:  
a) English as a key skill for career advancement in IT.  
b) The role of English in global collaboration and innovation.  
c) The challenges and advantages of learning English for technical professionals.

English has become an essential skill for career advancement in the IT industry. Most programming languages, documentation, and online resources are written in English; **therefore**, professionals who know the language can learn faster have access to much more information. **In addition**, many multinational companies use English as their primary language, which allows employees to communicate effectively with international teams. **However**, some professionals still underestimate the importance of improving their English skills, believing that technical knowledge alone is enough. This mindset can limit their opportunities. **As a result**, investing time in learning English not only enhances communication but also opens doors to better positions, higher salaries, and continuous professional development in the IT field

## Part 5 – Reflection and Critical Thinking

Reflect on your personal experience as a student or professional in technology. How has English helped (or limited) your access to knowledge, communities, or job opportunities? Write a short reflection (80–100 words) summarizing your thoughts.

Tip: Think about online tutorials, programming documentation, job interviews, or global conferences you’ve seen in English. **How different would your learning be if this content were not accessible to you?**

English helped me with singing songs, watching movies that didn’t have Brazilian Portuguese subtitles, reading books that didn’t have translations, talking with people from other countries, reading social media posts from people in other countries, and having access to international news.

When it comes to coding and programming, I have one recent experience: I was learning a technology at Senac called **Textual**, which is a Python library for creating interfaces. One thing that helped me a lot was being in a Discord group with the creator of Textual and other enthusiasts. Whenever I had doubts or questions, I searched the group and often found answers directly from the creator himself. Everyone in the group spoke English, so knowing the language definitely helped me during my Senac course.

Learning English has helped me a lot in programming. I have contact with developers from other countries, I watch programming videos on YouTube, all in English. And of course, most of the documentation I find on the web is in English, not only documentation but also courses. For example, the documentation for Textual is in English, and the Python courses we took at Cisco were also in English. Some of my colleagues used Google Translate to understand them, but they said the translations were really poor.

So, pretty much all the knowledge I have in coding is **thanks to English**. I’m also very grateful that I can play and sing my favorite songs in English on the guitar.

## Final Note

English is more than a language skill for developers — it’s a gateway to knowledge, innovation, and global participation. Mastering it means not only understanding technology but also becoming part of the global conversation that shapes the future of IT.