

Learners are leaving education and entering the workplace unprepared, unconfident and underskilled in **English**

Research sparks the need for a game-changing shift in English language learning to improve learner confidence and workplace readiness.

English has solidified its status as the global language of business. The message to those responsible for designing curriculums and training the workforce of the future is clear: it's time to make a change.

Research by Pearson in collaboration with PSB Insights, titled [How English empowers your tomorrow: The life-changing impact of learning English on your career and beyond](#), highlights a clear disparity between the English skills of education leavers and the proficiency needed to succeed at work.

Here are 3 key takeaways for English language educators:



1 Learners are leaving formal education without the English language skills they need to succeed



of respondents say their formal education has not equipped them with a good level of English proficiency.



feel confident in all four essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing (speaking and writing being the lowest).

2

Workplace English is a core business skill



85%

of respondents believe English is a vital skill for professional success.

88% of employees (and 92% of Gen Z - our future leaders) think that its importance will continue to grow in the next five years.

40% of respondents are learning English to mitigate the impact of AI and technology on their jobs.

55% believe that employees who can communicate effectively in English can earn up to 50% more. A further 25% believe you can earn between 60-80% more.

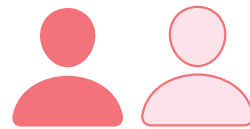
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Why did survey respondents feel that their English language training didn't adequately equip them for the workplace?

Current English training standards are too low, with not enough emphasis on the language skills needed for the workplace.

56% said there was too much focus on grammar and vocabulary.

46% said not enough English was spoken inside the classroom.



1 in 2

said there was not enough opportunity to practice English outside the classroom.

Fuel your efforts for change

A fundamental step-change is needed in the way educators and Ministries of Education approach English language learning. **This means:**

1. A skills-based approach to language learning is needed, rather than a focus on vocabulary and grammar.
2. Workplace-relevant English skills need to be taught, e.g., negotiating, writing emails, handling complaints, etc.
3. Embracing new technologies, such as language apps and social media, to motivate and engage learners.

Organizations are prioritizing employees with English proficiency and associated 'human skills' that are grounded in communication. It's time for the English language education system to adapt, and better prepare its learners for the modern workplace.

[Download the full research report to find out more, including how Pearson can help support educators to prepare learners for the workplace.](#)