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FEATURES OF LEARNING ENGLISH BY IT PROFESSIONALS

The globalization of the world is dictating its requirements for employees now. Of course, during the defense of Ukraine, people must focus on helping their country. However, the need for high-level English is relevant. After all, working with foreign partners will bring more money to the development of the Ukrainian economy.

When people learn English, they often ask, how to learn the language quickly, how to motivate themselves, and so on. Many people think that learning foreign language is only memorizing words and rules. This idea is very demotivating for students and professionals, who want to learn English. Therefore, it will be actual to talk about the peculiarities of learning English.

According to the recommendations of Cambridge University, you need to study English with a teacher for at least 1000 hours. That is, if you practice 3 times a week for 2 academic hours, you will need 5 years. The Table 1 shows the approximate time spent on mastering English from beginner level.

Table 1

Common European Framework Guided Learning Hours (from beginner level)

CEFR Level	Cambridge English Exam	Number of Hours (approximate)
C2	C2 Proficiency – previously known as Cambridge	1000 – 2000

	English: Proficiency (CPE)	
C1	C1 Advanced – previously known as Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)	700 – 800
B2	B2 First – previously known as Cambridge English: First (FCE)	500 – 600
B1	B1 Preliminary – previously known as Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)	350 – 400
A2	A2 Key – previously known as Cambridge English: Key (KET)	180 – 200
A1	A1 Starters/Movers – previously known as Cambridge English Starters/Movers (YLE)	90 – 100

Source: [1]

However, according to CEFR Global Scale, an independent language user must have at least a B1 level. This means that you can communicate on familiar topics freely. This level is enough for a non-managerial IT professional.

Of course, these figures are approximate and the effectiveness of training depends on motivation, time and learning experience.

It is very important to have a well-formed goal for learning a foreign language. For example, if your parents or company have paid for your English course, this is a bad motivation. You need to clearly understand what level you want to reach and why. If you say that you want to learn English to have many opportunities – this is also a bad motivation. The goal should be clearer. For example, you want to communicate with customers or employers independently, watch movies in English, etc. People who enjoy using a foreign language, they will be able to learn it quickly enough.

Some people think that they are not capable to learn a foreign language at all. In fact, everyone has the ability and motivation to do so. Age is also not an obstacle. Adults learn language much more effectively than children and students, due to developed logical thinking and better motivation.

Experienced teachers identify some of the most common myths about

learning English, which significantly slow down the learning process:

1. It is necessary to formulate thoughts in the native language, and then to translate them into English. In this way, we are only slowing down our speech. To avoid this, it will be useful to use a monolingual dictionary. Thus, you can not only understand the meaning of words, but also to learn about their context, emotional colour, method of use. This method provides better memorization of words and facilitates their practical use.

2. You have to memorize a lot of words every day. For long-term assimilation of the material, it is necessary to repeat the study regularly. To do this, methods are built on the basis of understanding the Ebbinghaus forgetting curve. For example, you can use cards with words and their meaning (context, pictures, etc.) or their digital counterparts.

3. If you read and listen a lot, you can learn a foreign language. Of course, if you listen more often, you will be able to reproduce what you have heard more easily. This only works if you work thoughtfully. But what we train, we get. For example, many IT professionals read technical documentation well but speak slowly and indistinctly.

Thus, to learn a foreign language you need to train not only receptive skills (reading and listening), but also productive (writing and speaking).

There are many mobile applications and sites that will help you to learn English now. You can use Anki, DuoCards, Mnemosyne or Quizlet to memorize words. To communicate with native speakers, you can learn a language in exchange for your own (for example, Italki), or join the Toastmasters Club and so on.

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