

What's the Point in



English?

To help you understand the value of English, we've spoken to a number of professionals who still use the skills, qualities and knowledge they gained from the subject at school in the work they do today. Turn over to find out who they are, what they do and what they had to say.....

What's the point in English?

The Head of Communications

I use the English I studied at school every day in my job. Whether this involves writing (such as submissions to senior Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, articles for our intranet, or emails to colleagues), or presenting or checking colleagues' communications. Working in the communications profession, it is extremely important that we use correct grammar, plain English, and creative and engaging copy that inspires people to read and take action.

Catherine Morris, Head of Corporate Communications at the Home Office

The Pharmacist

The English I studied at school has helped me to express myself within my role as a pharmacist. I now have to communicate at all levels to anyone from the Chief Executive of health care organisations to the general public. This includes writing business cases, evaluating clinical trials in order to make evidence based decisions for local funding, and articulating opinions in discussions.

Catriona Khetyar, Head of Medicines Optimisations at the NHS East Berkshire CCG

The Senior Nurse

I studied English at A-level and I find that my ability to write well is incredibly important in my role as a senior nurse. I take great pleasure from writing excellent English in my response letters to patients and when I am communicating with the senior Board within the hospital.

Charlotte Broughton, Matron Specialist (Surgery) at Ashford and St Peters Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The Talent Coordinator

I use the skills I learned in English GCSE and A-Level constantly. Clear written and verbal communication is essential with employees at all levels. Much of the day to day work I do is via email, which must be written concisely and professionally. HR work also involves writing letters and contracts which requires many skills to not only determine what must be included, but also to determine the way that it should be expressed, using appropriate language.

Cheryl Hadtstein, Talent Coordinator at Hanson UK Ltd

The Chief Operating Officer (Finance)

I entered a career in finance predominantly because I have strong mathematical and analytical skills. However, the most important skill I have is the ability to communicate effectively. Without a good grasp of spoken and written language, I could not communicate my findings; if I couldn't do that, there would be little point to the analysis in the first place.

Claire George, Chief Operating Officer at Aberdeen Asset Management

The Production Manager

Excellent English skills are vital when managing staff, contracts and everyday life. Interpretation is in the eye of the beholder. Let's look at an example: 'A special payment will be made for working 8 hours on Christmas day and/or Boxing day'. As a policy, that is fine. However, what about someone who works 8 hours starting at 8pm Christmas day and finishing at 4am on Boxing day? What payment would they receive? Getting the wording right is crucial for a harmonious work place.

Glen Bertram, Manager Production Resourcing at the BBC

The Head of Finance

Although I work in Finance, colleagues appreciate clear, concise, communication in written form. Making information clear and interesting with well written reporting helps to get the points across and enables better action to be taken. I spend most of my day writing emails, memos, and reports, as I interpret the financial information that has been produced.

Dharm Morarji, Head of Finance at Experian

The Learning and Development Assistant

Having excellent communication skills is absolutely vital in any job, and studying English A-Level really helps with this. Reading a wide range of books (and thinking about what they mean) opens your mind to new worlds and ideas, helps you form your own opinions, and expands your vocabulary; all of these are key skills for any professional role.

Elinor Crich, Learning and Development Assistant at Holman Fenwick Willan

The Head of Marketing and Communication

I use English every day in my role, whether it is writing or editing copy for the website or social media, putting together a report for sponsors or for my members, or writing a press release. Being able to express myself clearly and succinctly is key to how I market and promote theatre.

Emma De Souza, Head of Marketing and Communication at the Society of London Theatre

The Journalist

As a journalist, your words are your weapon. Without them, you can't tell the world what you've learned and you can't open their eyes to what's happening around them. They help you to ask the right questions and get the right answers. Without a brilliant English teacher and a love of books and the words that fill them, I wouldn't be able to do my job.

Faye Raincock, TV Journalist and Media Consultant at Fern Media

The Theatre Producer

I am a theatre producer, writer, and performance storyteller. I studied English at A-level and as part of my degree; I constantly use the skills learnt in all my work. As a producer, I write funding applications, business statements, letters and e-mails, and prepare contracts and marketing documents. Creatively, I have written two of my solo shows in recent years which have won awards at the Edinburgh Fringe and have been performed across the country.

Danyah Miller, Theatre Producer at Wizard Presents

The Commercial Director

In my career in technology, it is essential to be able to write and speak without ambiguity. Software development is expensive and any lack of clarity can make that cost soar.

When managing staff and clients, I am always thankful that I am able to effectively communicate both orally and in writing.

Ann Rippon, Commercial Director at PM Services



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