

**Короткова Ксения Андреевна**

студент

**Нестерова Мария Сергеевна**

студент

Научный руководитель

**Мотайлло Людмила Анатольевна**

доцент

Дальневосточный институт (филиал) ФГБОУ ВО «Всероссийский  
государственный университет юстиции»  
г. Хабаровск, Хабаровский край

## **НЕОБХОДИМОСТЬ ЗНАНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА**

### **ДЛЯ ЮРИСТА В РОССИИ**

*Аннотация: в данной работе рассматривается вопрос необходимости владения юристами английским языком, осуществляя свою деятельность в Российской Федерации.*

*Ключевые слова: юридическая деятельность, английский язык, Россия.*

**Korotkova Ksenia Andreevna**

student

**Nesterova Maria Sergeevna**

student

Scientific adviser

**Motaillo Liudmila Anatolevna**

associate professor

Far East (Brunch) FSBEI of HE "The All-Russian State University of Justice"  
Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Territory

## **THE NEED TO KNOW ENGLISH FOR A LAWYER IN RUSSIA**

*Abstract: the following article examines the question of necessity of lawyers' English language proficiency performing one's activity in Russian Federation.*

*Keywords: Juridical activity, English language, Russia.*

The main opinion on the need for lawyers to know English in Russia is the following: "There is no need for a lawyer working in the Russian legal field to know English. If there is such a need, it is easier to pay the translator". Is this opinion correct? Let's try to figure it out.

Today, thanks to the processes of globalization, digitalization, and so on, a number of areas of activity for lawyers have appeared where it is impossible to do without knowledge of English.

Ambitions and career growth are weighty, but rather abstract arguments in favor of learning English for lawyers. And here is a list of quite tangible reasons to study specialized legal English:

1. Salary. A novice lawyer in a good law company in Khabarovsk earns from 50 thousand rubles a month. But knowing English to work in his field will immediately raise his rate.

2. Job search. If you are planning to change jobs, you should be prepared for the requirements that are put forward to applicants for attractive vacancies. Knowledge of English is one of the primary criteria for considering a resume. Moreover, the lawyer's resume itself is in English.

3. New clients. Foreign clients are beneficial for any specialist, and especially for a lawyer. If legal English is within your competence, you can conduct business all over the world.

A striking example is the use of legal English by lawyers in arbitration or civil proceedings. Often contracts are bilingual and in order to establish the identity of two texts in different languages, knowledge of English is necessary. Thus, there is a significant saving of time, effort and, of course, money. If the level of language knowledge is insufficient for the successful professional activity of a lawyer, numerous foreign language courses are at his service. A wide range of professional foreign language programs for lawyers includes various courses. Studying at such courses will also help you in passing the exam for the international professional certificate ILEC (International Legal English Certificate), which will confirm your high level of proficiency in

---

professional and general English – at the Upper-Intermediate/Advanced level. The certificate is very useful for students who are going to study law at foreign universities, and for young lawyers who plan to work in international organizations and apply their specialty abroad.

In the above case, it is necessary to understand the presence of so-called “pitfalls”. Knowledge of English at a basic level will not be enough. As it may seem at first glance, it will be enough to expand your vocabulary with legal terms, but this, unfortunately, is not the case. In addition to vocabulary, it is important to master:

- special syntactic constructions;
- special rules of writing;
- rules for drafting legal documents and correct paragraph division;
- and many others.

The next example is the profession of “international lawyer”. This profession is considered one of the most prestigious and highly paid professions among lawyers. International law specialization is one of the four main types of specialization in the field of “Jurisprudence” (in addition to civil law, criminal law and state law specializations). The main difficulty lies in the fact that an international lawyer is obliged to possess not only knowledge in the field of Russian legislation, but also international law. Moreover, such a specialist is always forced to use knowledge of foreign languages in his work. The scope of application of knowledge in the field of international law is now very wide. In addition to traditional employment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international organizations, international lawyers are also needed in numerous commercial structures engaged in foreign economic activity. This is due to the fact that the number of international lawsuits is increasing from year to year, and most employers are not interested in paying for the services of translators on a regular basis.

The scope of application of knowledge in the field of international law is now very wide. In addition to traditional employment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international organizations, international lawyers are also needed in numerous commercial structures engaged in foreign economic activity. This is due to the fact that the number of international lawsuits is increasing from year to year, and most employers

are not interested in paying for translators on a regular basis. This can be well traced in concrete examples, such as the sensational proceedings between Apple and Samsung. Lawyers with knowledge of the Korean language were involved in the case. Specialists carefully considered all available documentation. And we can assume that the demand for such lawyers will only increase in the future.

An international lawyer should conduct his company's business in such a way that there are no claims against him either on Russian or foreign territory. Especially appreciated in the labor market is a specialist who knows taxation issues in Russia and abroad, who knows how to optimize tax schemes, in particular, with the help of off-shore companies. An international lawyer should be able to draw up any purchase and sale (supply) contracts, service contracts, distribution, agency, intermediary agreements, taking into account international trade law. A lawyer, a specialist in international law, is also in demand in government structures: embassies, consulates, representative offices of various organizations abroad. In this case, in addition to legal and language knowledge, he must have the skills of a diplomat

According to the author, the lack of widespread use of this specialization in Russian universities is a significant problem. The reason for this, in our opinion, is the lack of highly qualified teaching staff with sufficient knowledge not only in English, but also in international law.

A lot of works, scientific and journalistic articles are devoted to the question of the need to speak English today. For example, Andrey Belts in his article points out that, Unlike the usual spoken foreign language, legal speech is oversaturated with special terms, words and concepts that every professional lawyer should know about. For this reason, practicing lawyers need to know not only general, but also specialized language, for example, corporate law and contract law. This is necessary for conducting various business with foreign firms and companies. Nowadays, a lot of negotiations are conducted in a foreign language, so in order to protect the interests of his client, a lawyer simply has to know English. Knowledge of this language increases the chances of finding a high-paying job in a prestigious company that cooperates with foreign

---

partners. It is important for a practicing lawyer to know the basic rules of drafting documents in English. He also needs to master legal terminology in Russian and English. Unlike translators, in order to cope with their work, lawyers need to have a higher level of training. As soon as foreign companies appeared on the Russian market, legal services in English became in demand. Many organizations, hiring a lawyer, require him to know a foreign language. Such a point of view, according to the author, really has the right to exist in connection with today's realities.

Another author says that in the current realities, learning English is not so much recommended as mandatory. Of course, this is due to the fact that English is an international language. Knowledge of English certainly makes professional skills complex and strengthens the position of the specialist as a whole. Many successful companies cooperate with foreign partners, and, as a rule, the language of partnership relations is English. A specialist in any field of activity who speaks English feels much more confident not only from a professional point of view, but also as a person modern society.

Another path of development that opens up to a lawyer who speaks English is participation in international scientific, scientific and practical events and conferences. Both national Russian and international events, such as conferences, forums, round tables or seminars, are always an opportunity to share experiences, gain new knowledge, find new clients or establish contacts with colleagues. Accordingly, if you can take part in international events, it gives you more opportunities for personal development and growth of your company.

It is worth noting that such international scientific events are held not only on civil law and other branches of private law. In addition to the above events, there are various conferences and round tables in the fields of public law, as well as related sciences. For example, annual scientific conferences devoted to the development of criminal law, criminology (in particular in connection with the improvement of forensic technology), criminal victimology and so on.

The need for English in the legal profession is also emphasized by the Russian authorities. In particular, this can be traced in the fact that the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia includes such a discipline as "Legal English" and related

subjects in the list of mandatory disciplines for studying in the areas of law training, in particular: 40.03.01 “Jurisprudence”, 40.05.01 “Legal support of national security” and 40.02.02 “Law enforcement”.

When considering the need for English in the professional activity of a lawyer, it is impossible not to turn to the opinion about the uselessness of the English language for a lawyer in Russia. This point of view, in our opinion, also has the right to exist. To confirm this point of view, we can cite a number of professions where knowledge of English will not be of practical importance for a lawyer. The most striking example is the profession of an investigator.

If, during the preliminary investigation of criminal cases, the investigator is faced with the need to use English, the only option for him will be to involve an interpreter or a specialist to translate documents. Such situations often arise during the investigation of criminal cases of economic orientation. For example, during the search, a lease agreement drawn up in English was seized. In this situation, the investigator, even if he has knowledge of English, does not have the right to translate this document, otherwise it will lose its evidentiary value in a criminal case. In this case, in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation, it is necessary to attract a specialist with special knowledge in this field.

A similar situation arises when conducting an interrogation or confrontation with the participation of foreign citizens. Here, in order to exercise the rights of participants in the process, the investigator needs to involve an interpreter.

It is worth noting that in such a profession as an investigator, first of all, it is necessary to maintain not only the level of legal literacy, but also spirituality, humanity, and so on. This is where knowledge of English will come in handy. English can broaden your horizons, change your worldview. It is better to read and listen to many great works of art, literature, and music in the original than to try long and hard to understand the meaning of translated works.

In conclusion, it should be said that the globalization of the legal profession currently requires from a lawyer not only professional knowledge in their activities, but also a certain level of proficiency in a foreign language, in particular English. Lawyers

with knowledge of English have more prospects for a prestigious job and decent pay for their work. A modern lawyer cannot be linguistically illiterate if he wants to achieve success in his profession.