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a participant of Intersteno international competitions**

## **TOUCH-TYPING: BENEFIT, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORT**

**Anyone, who deals with a computer, occasionally has to keyboard various texts ranging from documents to ordinary emails. The ability to type fast could save time and help keep up with the thought!**

Nowadays there are lots of opportunities to learn to touch-type (that is without looking at the keyboard) fast. Numerous organizations teach speedy keyboarding. One can find simulators, both paid and free, and Internet sites which teach touch-typing online. Championships in rapid and flawless typing are held in the Internet, which makes the learning process much more exciting.

Those who have already gained a professional skill and are able to type at 200 characters per minute with a minimum of errors can participate in annual international online competitions held by the Intersteno. This spring such a contest will be held for the seventh time and it'll be the third time that the Russian language will be introduced in it and consequently the third time that the Russian team of touch-typists will take part in it.

The participation of the Russian team came true due to the great efforts of the enthusiasts from the educational consulting centre GZOS, who helped form the team and are constantly in close contact with the Intersteno authorities in all aspects of its activities.

The Russian team is not numerous yet: only 15 contestants competed in 2008, each of them fulfilled the minimum demands. Of course, taking into consideration that the total number of participants was 1200, our team was just a drop in the ocean. But it's worth remembering that it was only the second tournament we had taken part in. We may say our team is still being formed.

I should mention that most members of our team are over 21 years old (it's quite different in foreign teams). However, one of the 7 contestants under 12 years old was our Stanislav Yagunov, who was the 3d in his age group. Both his mother and father also participated, so we can say that a whole dynasty of touch-typists introduced itself on the international level.

In 2008 the competitions were held in 2 nominations: typing in a mother tongue and multi-lingual, where a competitor could type in all the introduced languages. All in all there were 4 Russian multi-linguists last year. Roman Vorobets fulfilled the minimum demands in the 16 languages and was the 9<sup>th</sup> with 56571 points. Compare: American Daniel Chen won with 72226 points, having typed in all the languages but Russian. In typing in a mother tongue no one could compare to Eleonora Lukina – a legend of Runet, known under the nickname AvtandiLine. She was the 9<sup>th</sup> in the age group of over 21- year-olds.

It should be noted that watching the competitions was extremely exciting though for a detached onlooker it might have seemed quite boring (each participant had just one attempt to type a 10-minute text). There is hope that the number of fans and participants will grow.

No doubt for those who type at mind-blowing speeds (like the winner of a single-lingual competition Khakan Kurt from Turkey, who typed the text at 807 characters per minute) and those who type in half a dozen of languages without even understanding them, typing is first of all a sport. But it's not a secret that the aim of any sport is involving as many people as possible, encouraging them to gain results. The aim of the keyboarding competitions is not to teach everyone to type at 600 or more characters per minute, but to teach as many people as possible to type fast and correctly.

This is what the Intersteno's activities are aimed at: searching for and promoting new technologies of speedy keyboarding, looking for people who are able and want to type quickly and flawlessly. The promotion of faultless (in the first place!) typing means the promotion of the culture of writing, the culture of speech and, as a result, culture as a whole.

So join in! Be a member of a world-wide community. The next competitions start on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. Details are on [intersteno.ru](http://intersteno.ru).