

## **USEFUL STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILLS**

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**Abstract:** This article examines the different circumstances under which infant and adult learners develop speaking skills. We will see the facilities or difficulties in both cases in order to focus on the real possibilities of adults to develop a high level of speaking proficiency. We will see what the role of the teacher is in order to improve the learners skills, the features of oral communication that need to be improved and which strategies can be used to overcome the difficulties below.

**Key words :** oral presentation, imitating, reading, verbal, interactive process, self-correct.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqola chaqaloq va katta yoshdagi o'quvchilar nutq qobiliyatlarini rivojlantiradigan turli vaziyatlarni ko'rib chiqadi. Kattalarning yuqori darajadagi nutq malakasini rivojlantirish uchun real imkoniyatlariga e'tibor qaratish uchun ikkala holatda ham qulayliklar yoki qiyinchiliklarni ko'rib chiqamiz. O'quvchilarning malakasini oshirishda o'qituvchining roli qanday ekanligini, og'zaki muloqotning qaysi xususiyatlarini yaxshilash kerakligi va qiyinchiliklarni yengish uchun qanday strategiyalardan foydalanish mumkinligini o'rganamiz

**Kalit so'zlar:** og'zaki taqdimot, taqlid qilish, o'qish, og'zaki, interaktiv jarayon, o'z-o'zini tuzatish.

**Аннотация:** В этой статье рассматриваются различные обстоятельства, при которых дети и взрослые учащиеся развивают навыки говорения. Мы увидим возможности или трудности в обоих случаях, чтобы сосредоточиться на реальных возможностях взрослых развивать высокий уровень разговорной речи. Мы увидим, какова роль учителя в улучшении навыков учащихся, особенности устного общения, которые необходимо улучшить, и какие стратегии можно использовать для преодоления трудностей, описанных ниже.

**Ключевые слова:** устное изложение, имитация, чтение, вербальный, интерактивный процесс, самокоррекция.

### **Introduction**

Speaking is "the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts" (Chaney, 1998, p. 13) Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information (Brown, 1994; Burns & Joyce, 1997). Speaking is a crucial part of second language learning and teaching. Despite its importance, for

many years, teaching speaking has been undervalued and English language teachers have continued to teach speaking just as a repetition of drills or memorization of dialogues. However, today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve students' communicative skills, because, only in that way, students can express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communicative circumstance, therefore, recent pedagogical research on teaching students conversation has provided some parameters for developing objectives and techniques.

Speaking English is the main goal of many adult learners. Their personalities play a large role in determining how quickly and how correctly they will accomplish this goal. Those who are risk-takers unafraid of making mistakes will generally be more talkative, but with many errors that could become hard to break habits. Conservative, shy students may take a long time to speak confidently, but when they do, their English often contains fewer errors and they will be proud of their English ability. It's a matter of quantity vs. quality, and neither approach is wrong so how shall we prioritize the two clearly important speaker goals of accurate (clear, articulate, grammatically and phonologically correct) language and fluent (flowing, natural) language? However, if the aim of speaking is communication and that does not require perfect English, then it makes sense to encourage quantity in your classroom. Break the silence and get students communicating with whatever English they can use, correct or not, , and selectively address errors

Speaking English confidently is an important goal for many. Often, we hesitate because we are afraid of making mistakes or embarrassing ourselves in front of others. Sometimes mistakes are unavoidable. But like any other skill, you can improve your spoken English if you practice regularly and follow these simple techniques.

The first step in improving your speaking skills is actually working on your listening.

Listening to English has several benefits – it allows you to pick up new words, phrases, and ways to respond in conversations. Secondly, listening provides opportunities to understand pronunciation, how some words are omitted when speaking, how some are joined together, the rhythm, the intonation, and the sounds of language.

What should you listen to? There are many resources available to you to listen to for free. Start with short English clips or videos: pick your favorite English TV show or YouTube channel. Listen to a clip and notice carefully what the characters are saying. Repeat any dialogues or phrases that interest you. Replay the same clip until you understand every word. You could also turn on the subtitles or look at the transcript of the video if available and practice saying the dialogues with the characters.

The third most interesting way to improve your listening and speaking is by listening to audio books. Audio books have become very popular over the past couple of years. They are great for people who have no time to invest in reading books. They are also a wonderful way to perfect your pronunciation.

Imitating or copying someone is a wonderful to improve your speaking skills. Not convinced? Watch babies and children – how do they learn a language? They copy everything an adult says.

Another benefit of imitation is that it will help you become more accurate in English without having to learn grammar rules. With lots of practice you will begin to remember chunks of words and phrases. This helps in remembering word patterns in a sentence and how certain words go with others.

**To effectively improve your speaking skills, you need to follow these steps:**

- **Listen:** Pick your favorite video or audio clip from any of the sources provided in the earlier section of this article. Play the audio and listen to it carefully. Play as many times as you like to understand how each word is spoken.

- **Repeat and record:** After playing the audio, repeat saying the words and conversations exactly as you heard. Pay special attention to the intonation, stress, and rhythm of language. Record yourself while repeating the words. Recording will provide you an opportunity to listen to yourself and self-correct.

- **Compare:** Listen to the audio again and compare it with your recording. Does it match? Note down changes that you may need to make.

- **Correct:** Repeat the entire process again until you get better and more accurate.

As this process involves listening to the same audio clip several times, choose a topic that is interesting to you. If you stick with the routine, you will see improvement in your pronunciation, vocabulary, accuracy, and overall speaking abilities in no time!

**Reading** is yet another important skill to have when learning a language. Whether you prefer a novel or an article, reading a few minutes every day will help you acquire new vocabulary.

The most common reason why people hesitate with reading is that it takes quite a lot of time to read a book from start to finish. However, when learning English, reading even for a few minutes is greatly beneficial. Short articles or notes in English are great for this. They only take a few minutes to read and are quite easy to find.

You can start with materials you find every day. Think of notes and memos at work, pamphlets and brochures at your local supermarket, or notices and safety instructions in the elevators – wherever you are there is always something to read.

**Reflection** is a very useful step in improving your speaking skills. Reflection is nothing but asking questions to think about what you learnt, how you learnt, what progress you see, what could be done differently, and how to change the way you learn to allow progress. It is important to reflect on your language learning abilities on a

daily basis, especially if you are learning a new language independently. Reflection is another way to provide yourself with some good feedback in the absence of a teacher. Say you had a great conversation in English. After your conversation is over, take a moment to reflect.

**Ask yourself questions such as the following:**

How was it?

How much did you understand the other person?

How confident did you feel in responding to the questions asked or continuing the conversation?

How comfortable did you feel about the topic of discussion?

How quickly were you able to think of the right thing to say or the right word to say?

Did you come across any unfamiliar words?

What did the other person do when they couldn't think of the right word?

Thinking about these questions will help you see your strengths more clearly and gain confidence. You will also find opportunities for improvement and specific areas to work on.

**You could also reflect after reading or listening to something in English. Ask yourself these questions.**

What are some of the key points you learned from the article or podcast?

Can you summarize them in your own words?

Are there some words or ideas that were new to you?

Can you use the words and sentences around the new word to guess the meaning of this new word? Look up a dictionary soon after to confirm if you really got the meaning right.

Recording your reflections in a notebook after every learning session will help you see your progress over time.

A lot of us hesitate to speak or take part in conversations in English because we are nervous about what to say. We are anxious that what we say may not be appropriate or we may make mistakes. We can easily fix this problem by preparing ahead. Are you going to a restaurant with your colleagues? Think of situations that require you to speak English. Order food, perhaps? Ask for changes to a dish? Ask your colleagues' preferences? Ask for the bill? What vocabulary do you need in these situations? Write up a simple list of phrases to use.

There is no magic pill that would help you speak better. You must put yourself in situations where you are forced to speak in English to get better at it. Start small. Do you live or work at a place where you need to speak English to get by? Great! Take advantage of this situation by speaking to people around you. It could be at your workplace or even at a coffee shop – doesn't matter where, as long as you can speak.

If you don't have that advantage, practice speaking in English with your colleagues or classmates. It is easier if you choose someone who speaks a different language than you do as it forces you to communicate in English.

You could also consider joining an English language course to improve your range of vocabulary and speaking. You get tons of practice and a teacher to provide you with some personal feedback on your speaking skills. You will meet likeminded learners from all over the country or even another country.

These days, a lot of online forums and discussion groups focus on language learning as a goal. Joining such a forum will help you practice speaking with students from different parts of the world with similar goals. Many of these groups are easy to find. Try Facebook, Reddit, or Discord. Just a word of caution – it is important to keep in mind internet safety and security. Remember safety should be your priority. Read these online safety tips before joining a group.

We cannot stress this enough. Regular and consistent practice is the key to success when it comes to speaking English. The tips and suggestions that we've described above only work if you use them regularly. So, here's what we recommend. Start small – spend just 10 minutes every day doing 1-2 of the above things. Maybe listen to a short video clip today and imitate. Reflect on what you learned. Tomorrow, pick up a short article. Read aloud and summarize in your own words. Reflect on what you read and the new words.

Some days you will find more time. Dedicate more time when you can but do the minimum every single day. You will see a big change in your abilities in no time! As you improve, you'll get more confident and more ready for bigger challenges. This is the time to find speaking partners and to put yourself in situations that require speaking in English. Don't worry about making mistakes. Most people don't care if you make mistakes.

### **Conclusion**

Speaking is the key to communication. By considering what good speakers do, what speaking tasks can be used in class, and what specific needs learners report, teachers can help learners to improve their speaking and overall oral competency. Teaching speaking is a very important part of second language learning. The ability to communicate in a second language clearly and efficiently contributes to the success of the learner in school and success later in every phase of life. Therefore, it is essential that language teachers pay great attention to teaching speaking. Rather than leading students to pure memorization, providing a rich environment where meaningful communication takes place is desired. With this aim, various speaking activities such as those listed before can contribute a great deal to students in developing basic interactive skills necessary for life. These activities make students more active in the

learning process and at the same time make their learning more meaningful and fun for them.

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