

## METHODS THAT CAN HELP STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR SPEAKING SKILLS

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**Abstract:** *Nowadays, most students have problems related to their speaking skills. This article shows how to improve our speaking skills and demonstrates effective ways to boost fluency.*

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In the rapidly developed world, knowing how to speak fluently in English is important. Especially, for the students whose major is English philology it is really hard not being able to speak confidently. There are a lot of students who have difficulty with their speaking skills. They know English very well because they have already learned all complex grammar structures and vocabulary, but the problem is that they can not use those structures in their active speech. What is the reason for that? What should they do?

Speaking fluently is an important goal for many. Often, they hesitate because they are afraid of making mistakes or embarrassing themselves 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. According to some experience, to learn how to speak firstly we should actually work on our listening skills. Listening to English has several benefits. For instance, It allows us 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 they are joined together, and the rhythm, intonation, and sounds of language. In the beginning, we should find a video or a movie in English and we should pay more attention to what the characters are saying. Repeat any dialogues or phrases that are new to you. Replay the video until you can understand all the words. 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. Listening to podcasts can be also helpful.

Imitating is another way to rectify our speaking English and pronunciation. The main benefit of imitating is that it will help you become more accurate in English without learning grammar rules. With lots of practice, you will begin to remember several words and phrases. This helps in remembering word patterns in a sentence and how certain words

go with others. For this method, you need to find a suitable character that has a similar voice to you.

Reading aloud has a great influence on correcting pronunciation. The reason is that you can also hear your sound and you have an opportunity to correct it by yourself. Reading aloud for 20 or 30 minutes daily can improve your pronunciation as well as your comprehension in reading skills. Besides that, reflection is a very useful step in improving your speaking skills. Reflection is nothing but asking questions to think about what you learned, and how to change the way you learn to allow progress. It is important to reflect on your language learning abilities daily, 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. 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 that we may make mistakes. We can easily fix this problem by preparing ahead. Students want to achieve higher band scores or better grades without doing much more practice. As you know it is just impossible to get to the top of the level without doing daily practice. We should state that students have a fair of making mistakes while they are speaking in public. For this reason, they just avoid speaking. Initially, they should know that it is all right to make some grammar or pronunciation mistakes. Even native speakers make that kind of mistake during their speech. They can record their sample answers while practicing and analyse them via correcting. Several students even don't know how to practice effectively. The first step to practice effectively is to find the right time in a day to do your best. It is essential to choose the right time to do practice because speaking requires fully focus. Therefore, I highly recommend you practice in the early morning when your brain is fresh and ready to accept all information as soon as possible. Thus, you should set a strict daily routine and time management. This also helps you to avoid waste of time. To achieve a higher level you should spend more time on practice. According to some surveys, practicing for 2 or 3 hours a day can make a big difference in your speaking. Therefore, students should have daily habits. As James Clear stated "Habit formation is incredibly useful because the conscious mind is the bottleneck of the brain. It can pay attention to one problem at a time. As a result, your brain is always working to preserve your conscious attention for whatever task is most essential".

Another way to enhance speaking skills is to work on fluency. What is fluency then? Fluency is to speak in English clearly without any hesitation and pauses like umm..., a.... Speaking fluently can show your confidence and your knowledge of this language. When it comes to boosting fluency, there are some methods to improve fluency. First of all, doing a lot of practice and speaking a lot without worrying about making mistakes can be the main key to being more confident. Connected speech is a way to be more fluent. That usually occurs in phrasal verbs where the first word ends with a consonant sound and the second word starts with a vowel sound. There are some examples:

- Stand up
- Get up

- Watch out
- Hold on
- Get out
- Make a deal

We should pay attention to the word stress while speaking. Because it helps us to distinguish words that are written the same but pronounced differently. Firstly we have to find out more about word stress. Word accent in a disyllabic or polysyllabic word may be defined as a singling out of one or more of its syllables by giving them a greater degree of prominence as compared with the other syllable or syllables in the same word. When the word is a noun or an adjective, the word stress is usually on the first syllable.

However, when the word is a verb the word stress is on the second syllable. Here are some examples.

import(noun) => 'impo:t

import(verb) => im'po:t

report(noun) => 'repo:t

report(verb) => re'po:t

The word stress is on the syllable that situates before -ic,-tion,-sion suffix

For example: conclusion

revision

The word stress is in the first part of compound words.

For example: 'blackboard,'notebook

In conclusion, to speak in English better you can follow the methods which are written above. Forget about grammar mistakes while you are speaking and if you notice them rectify them in your next time. Speaking skills require a lot of time and work. Laziness can bring only failure in the future. So you should study and work hard on your goals to become a person that you want to be. Speak a lot in English by following those structures and boosting your level of speaking skills.

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