



## IMPROVING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGES SPEAKING SKILLS WITH EFFICIENT WAYS

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### ABSTRACT

The results of this study revealed that the students of ANU face many problems related to speaking skill, such as confusion and embarrassment; students did not learn speaking lessons correctly at school, and face difficulty in pronouncing some words. The results also showed that the most frequent problems were the limited amount of vocabulary among students, while the least frequent problems were the difficulty in understanding questions. This study also presented some of appropriate solutions to overcome the weakness in speaking skill, such as practicing speaking English inside and outside the classroom effectively, using the modern social media to communicate in English and to express the students feelings and needs.

**Key words:** *Speaking skill, EFL, communication skills*

### Annotation

This paper deals with beneficial ways of improving speaking skill and some problems are shown with the solutions.

### Аннотация

В этой статье рассматриваются полезные способы улучшения разговорной речи, и некоторые проблемы показаны с решениями.

### MAIN PART

English language is a universal language and one of the simplest and easiest languages in the world. It is the official language in a large number of countries, it is estimated that the number of people in the world that use English to communicate on a regular basis is two billion. English language is the dominant business language, and it has become almost necessity for people to spoken English, because there are many motivations to learn this language, such as: the modern world language of media, international economic, tourism, technology and scientific articles, and the Internet that demands a good knowledge of English especially of spoken English. English language is considered as foreign language of a lot of Arab countries, like Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Arab Gulf, and others. Jordan uses it in the government, some formal situations, in addition, of the Jordanian universities; they use it as a first language in lectures and debates. While reading and listening are considered to be the two receptive skills in language learning, and writing and speaking are the order two productive skills necessary to be integrated in the development of effective communication.

However, speaking for special communication usually occurs in contexts where speaking performance is conducted for an audience in differing circumstances. The principles of public speaking are also intertwined with the development of speaking for special communication. When a speech involving an audience is taken into consideration, the act of speaking is considered to be more complicated than general everyday conversation and a number of other skills are therefore included in the speaking delivery process, e.g. choosing topics, organizing thoughts, tailoring the message, and adapting to listener feedback[1].

## [1] **How To Improve English Speaking Skills**

Many students master the fine points of English grammar but find themselves at a loss when it comes to actually having a conversation with native speakers. In reality, the only way to develop fluency in speaking is by huge amounts of listening, and then practicing. The following are a few tips for improving English speaking skills. Don't forget that listening is the foundation for speaking! When you also want to practice speaking, here are some suggestions for how to improve English speaking skills.

### **Find An English-Speaking Conversation Partner**

First of all, it's important to find native speakers to practice with. Students who are living around many English speakers may be able to find informal opportunities to chat with neighbors and local business people. Joining a club or a volunteer organization can be a great way to get to know people informally. If that isn't an option, consider hiring a private tutor. A lot of students find and meet with tutors online via tools like Skype or Google Hangouts.

### **Make Sure To Listen As Well As Speak**

When practicing with a native speaker, try to balance your listening and speaking. It's a good idea to prepare questions in advance so that the conversation will flow back and forth. If your conversation partner asks you a question and you answer at length, you can always turn the question back to your partner by asking, "What do you think?" or "What about you?"

### **Record Your Conversation Practice**

Recording is a great way to get the maximum benefit from a conversation with a native speaker. When you listen again, you can evaluate your own pronunciation and notice areas where you need to improve. You can also review the content of the conversation, take notes on new vocabulary or misunderstandings, and prepare questions for the next meeting.

### **Surround Yourself With The English Language**

Another way to improve your English speaking skills is to immerse yourself in English as much as possible. Watch movies or TV in English, with subtitles if you need them, and watch the same programs over and over. Most people find that they understand more each time. Listening helps you become familiar with the rhythms and intonations of English. Once the sounds are familiar, try imitating them.

### **Practice With Music and Movies**

Listen to music in English and sing along. Music is one of the best tools for learning intonation pronunciation. Listening to and singing songs might also help you remember vocabulary and phrases (if the song is easy to understand), and it will help you learn to pronounce English rhythm in a more natural way. By unconsciously imitating the singer, you'll learn to pronounce phrases the way native speakers do. One good song for ESL or EFL students is "Tom's Diner" by Suzanne Vega because it uses simple language to describe everyday scenes and actions. Movies are a much better choice for learning English. You'll learn vocabulary, idioms, slang, pronunciation, and listening by watching movies. Be sure to use my movie technique when you do this!

### Read Aloud

Reading out loud is a great way to practice speaking when there are no conversation partners available. Reading aloud gives you a chance to focus on pronunciation and pacing without worrying about coming up with words. Make sure to practice with material that you can understand. Some students find videos online that have transcripts. Many TED talks, for example, include word-for-word transcripts of the talk. By reading aloud from a transcript, you can check your pronunciation by listening to how the speaker says something.

### Talk To Yourself

Saying your thoughts out loud or narrating your actions ("I am drinking coffee, and now I'm going to open my book") can be a very effective way to practice spoken English. By talking to yourself, you can become more fluent in translating your thoughts into spoken words. Practicing alone is also a low-pressure way to practice, since no one will hear your mistakes.

In learning languages, I focus my energy, especially at the beginning, on input, on listening and reading. I enjoy these activities, and I know they will lead me to fluency, as long as I continue long enough. However, just as is the case with most learners, I also want to be able to speak, and to speak well. What are my speaking goals, and how do I get there?

**I know that I am not going to learn to speak a new language perfectly. Perfection is not my goal. My goal is effective communication.**

I am far from perfect in any of the 20 languages that I speak. In most of them I can communicate, in some very well ([Chinese](#) and [Spanish](#)), and in some less well (Polish). In some languages I have allowed myself to lapse to the point that I can no longer communicate, but I know that with a little effort I can regain what I lost and start communicating again.

I know that whenever I communicate in another language I am improving in that language. But regardless of my level in a language, I'm satisfied with whatever I am able to do, since at one point I was unable to understand anything in the language. I also know from experience that my ability to speak and to pronounce well will only improve with time, as long as I remain alert to what I hear and read, and how I use the language.

Here are the steps I take when trying to improve my oral skills.

Listen a lot

I mean as much as an hour a day or more, just about every day. I do this when I start out learning a new language. I also do this when refreshing in a language that has slipped. I listen in my car and while doing chores around the house. I listen while exercising or running. I rarely just sit down and focus on listening. I just listen "on the fly", taking advantage of "dead time" during the day.

Listening creates a body of experience for the brain. If the content is interesting, and the voice pleasing, listening creates an emotional connection with another language. Listening creates neural connections. Perhaps it is like the function known as mirror neurons, in that listening activates neurons in a way similar to speaking, or perhaps not, but there is no doubt that high resonance listening prepares me for speaking. It gives me phrases, improves my comprehension, lets me hear the pronunciation ever more clearly, and gives me momentum for eventually speaking.

I put a fair amount of effort into searching out content that is high resonance, interesting, sufficiently challenging without being too difficult, and above all enjoyable. Typically I start with short, easier content and graduate to longer more interesting content.

I also make sure that I have access to a transcript of what I am listening to so I can understand it. This leads to the second important activity needed to develop the ability to speak well.

Read a lot

Reading is the best way to increase your vocabulary. Stephen Krashen and others have done considerable research on [the power of reading](#).

So reading gives you words, individual words, and phrases, words in combination with other words. To express yourself you need words. To communicate you need to understand what the other person is saying, and this requires a large vocabulary, a large passive vocabulary. To have meaningful conversations with people, you need to understand what they are saying. This means that your passive vocabulary needs to be larger than your active vocabulary.

Of course you want to activate as much of your passive vocabulary as possible. But you will likely always have trouble using all the words that you know passively. You may be annoyed that you can't find words that you feel you know. But it doesn't matter. If you have the vocabulary and comprehension level to engage in lots of conversation, your speaking skills will gradually catch up and more and more of your passive vocabulary will be activated.

Most of my reading is at first limited to reading the transcripts or texts of whatever I am listening to. A lot of this is done on my iPad using [LingQ](#). However, as I progress in the language, I develop the ability to read anything I want, albeit with a small percentage of as yet unknown words. At that point the listening and reading diverge. I engage in both activities independently. This just builds up my familiarity with the language, preparing me for effective communication.

Imitate

Listening when combined with reading will fill your brain with phrases you recognize and will eventually be able to use.

You may want to imitate out loud the odd word or phrase, while you are listening and reading. This is a form of this activity that is sometimes referred to as [shadowing](#). I don't do this systematically, but I do find myself practicing certain words and phrases that I come across, in the hope that they will become a part of my usable vocabulary. Of course, they don't necessarily stick, but by deliberately noticing them, repeating them, wanting to be able to use them, at some point some of them stick.

When imitating what we hear, it is often more useful to focus on the rhythm, the intonation of the language, rather than on the pronunciation of individual words. I found that particularly the case when learning Mandarin with its tones. However, all languages have their own

intonation, their own music. We need to acquire this through imitation. Doing so helps our pronunciation, and even makes our use of words more natural.

Write

Writing is a great way to start producing the language.

I have to confess to being too lazy to write much in the languages I am learning. About the only writing I do is with the dictation task that LingQ offers as one of the five review activities in each lesson. However, if I did take the time to write, I would improve my speaking faster. When we write, we have the time to look up words, to look up grammar rules, or word endings. We have more time to think things through. This no doubt prepares us for speaking. The difficulty is finding something meaningful to write about. If we do write, it is the activity of writing, rather than any correction of that writing, that is of greatest benefit, in my experience. So if you want to start speaking, maybe you should try to start by writing.

Speak

To speak well, you eventually have to speak a lot. If you can find someone near you to speak to in the language you are learning, take advantage. If you have achieved a certain level in the language, you may have to go to the country where the language is spoken to get a lot of speaking experience.

Failing that you can look for online language exchange partners or website where you can find online language tutors. I have used tutors at iTalki and at LingQ for this purpose.

When I speak I don't worry about my mistakes, I even encourage my partner not to correct me while I speak. I just want to communicate. I immediately forget any corrections made during our discussions anyway. I do, however, appreciate getting a list of those words and phrases that caused me difficulty, for review after our conversation. I import these into LingQ as lessons. Sometimes the tutor records these lists for me, which is really great.

I am thus able to review words and phrases that I want to use, and struggled to use, in the context of a meaningful conversation. This is all high resonance material, and it brings listening, reading and speaking together, and ever so slightly moves me along towards my goal of speaking effectively in the language I am learning.

Effective communication, of course, doesn't mean perfect communication, nor error free communication. It just means communicating in a way that leaves both speaking partners feeling comfortable about the experience.

### 1. Think in English

Sometimes the difficult thing about English speaking isn't the language itself, but how you think about it.

If you think in your native language and then try to speak English, you'll always have to translate between languages. Translating isn't an easy thing to do! Even people fluent in two or more languages have trouble switching between languages.

**The solution is to think in English.**

You can do this anywhere, anytime. Try to use English when you're thinking about your day, or when you're trying to decide what food to order. Even try to use an English-to-English dictionary to look up words. That way you never have to use your native language and

translate words. You'll notice that when you think in English, it's easier for you to speak in English.

## 2. Talk to Yourself

Whenever you're at home (or alone somewhere else) you can improve English speaking with your favorite person: yourself.

If you're already thinking in English, try speaking your thoughts out loud. Read out loud, too. Practice is practice, and even if you don't have anyone to correct your mistakes, just the act of speaking out loud will help you become more comfortable speaking English.

## 3. Use a Mirror

Whenever you can, take a few minutes out of your day to stand in front of the mirror and speak. Choose a topic, set a timer for two or three minutes and just talk.

The point of this exercise is to watch your mouth, face and body language as you speak. It also makes you feel like you're talking to someone, so you can pretend you're having a discussion with a study buddy.

Talk for the full two or three minutes. Don't stop! If you get stuck on a word you don't know, try expressing your idea in a different way. You can always look up how to say that word after the two to three minutes end. This will definitely help you find out what kinds of words or sentences you have trouble with.

## 4. Focus on English Fluency, Not Grammar

When you speak in English, how often do you stop?

The more you stop, the less confident you sound and the less comfortable you become. Try the mirror exercise above, but challenge yourself to speak without stopping or stammering (taking pauses between your words) the entire time.

This might mean that your sentences won't be grammatically perfect, and that's *okay*! If you focus on speaking fluently instead of correctly, you'll still be understood and you'll sound better. You can fill in the correct grammar and word rules as you learn them better.

## 5. Try English Tongue Twisters

Tongue twisters are series of words that are difficult to say quickly. One example is: "The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday." Try saying this a few times! It's not easy.

Word games like this will help you find the right placement for your mouth and tongue, and can even help your pronunciation. You can find a list of great tongue twisters here.

## 6. Listen and Repeat

Do you watch TV shows or YouTube videos in English? Use them to improve your fluency. Choose a short part of a show and repeat it line by line. Try to match the tone, speed and even

the accent (if you can). It doesn't matter if you miss a few words, the important thing is to keep talking. Try to sound just like the native speakers on the show.

## CONCLUSION

To shortcut the findings of this study, new strategies should be involved to improve students' English language speaking skill at ANU. It is suggested that English lecturers create situations that can encourage learners to produce English oral interactions because such interactions can provide learners with opportunities to explain concepts and help them to vocalize concrete meaning, by vocalizing concrete meaning, learners can lean their tendency towards English oral communication activities. In addition, the current methods to get the learners to approach oral communication activities are by producing a task-based learning style of teaching. Traditional learning methods (by posing comprehension check questions) limit the learners' opportunity to have two-way communication between learners and the instructor. Task-based learning is the ideal approach that can enhance learner' communication ability and through problem solving activities, teachers get the chance to observe how learners construct and reconstruct their Interlingua.

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