

## TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION AND SPEAKING SKILLS

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**Annotation:** This article discusses the difficulties of developing students' phonetic competence in English, a number of mistakes made by students in the formation of phonetic skills, namely phonological errors and pronunciation of long and short vowels, as well as teaching methods. This is specific and most difficult for students, since little attention is paid to phonetic skills at school, and applicants enter higher education institutions with developed pronunciation errors, and there is also no mechanism for correct pronunciation of English in higher education institutions. Phonological errors occur when pronouncing an allophone of another phoneme instead of an allophone of a phoneme, which leads to a change in the meaning of the word

**Keywords:** develop, pronunciation, improve, competence, skills, phonetic, students, speaking, meaning, communication

Language is the means of communication. Language has an important role in human life because without language there is no communication and it will be difficult for people to understand what other people mean. Language is an instrument to share information and discuss something people need. Communication in foreign language is a bridge to get information, knowledge, and culture. Thus, when the teacher asked them to practise speaking, they were not brave enough to speak up, especially in front of the class. Sometimes, they also felt anxious and less confident about their speaking, pronunciation, or grammar. The problems above should be immediately solved. Teachers have to consider a technique that can help their students solve their problem in order to have good speaking skill. There are many techniques that can be applied to improve students' speaking skill. They are oral presentation, role play, debate, story telling etc. The writer chose story telling technique to solve the students' problems in speaking English. Speaking skill is the productive skill in the oral mode. Like other skills, speaking is more complicated and involves more than just pronouncing words. According to researches there are five components of speaking skill that can be defined as follows: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. To be a good speaker the English learners have to master all of the components. However, besides those linguistic components above there are many factors that influence speaking ability.

For many students, pronunciation is not a significant barrier to attaining fluency. However, it should not be neglected as incorrect pronunciation can lead to misunderstandings or breakdowns in communication. Some students may struggle with pronunciation in English, mainly because there is no one-to-one correspondence between spelling and sound. It is also important for learners to be familiar with stress and intonation in English words and within sentences. For example, certain words can change from nouns to verbs and vice versa just by changing the stress from the first to the second syllable. In natural speech, English words are often connected or chunked together. Native speakers also tend to stress certain words in a sentence for emphasis to convey a particular meaning. A learner, therefore, needs guidance on

these particular pronunciation features because they may not be present in their first language. Some activities that can help with pronunciation are, of course, the traditional repetition drills, or ones that ask students to listen and shadow the pronunciation of speakers in English songs or English videos. It is also helpful to practice reading aloud with narrative texts, or even by creating dialogues and having students present them.

Working on your listening skills is the first step in improving your speaking abilities. There are several advantages to listening to English, including the chance to learn new words, expressions, and conversational strategies. Second, listening offers chances to comprehend pronunciation, the omission or joining of some words when speaking, rhythm, intonation, and linguistic sounds. A great technique to develop your speaking abilities is through mimicking or imitating others. Imitation can also improve your English accuracy without requiring you to master any new grammar rules. You will eventually be able to recall phrases and words in chunks with a lot of practice. This makes it easier to recall word patterns in sentences and the relationships between various words.

Another crucial ability to have when learning a language is the ability to read. Reading for a little while each day, whether it be a book or an article, will help you expand your vocabulary. The most frequent excuse given for why people put off reading is the length of time required to complete a book. But even a brief period of reading can be quite helpful while learning English. English-language brief texts or notes work well for this. They are quite simple to find and just require a short amount of time to read.

A crucial stage in developing your speaking abilities is reflection. Reflection is nothing more than pondering what you have learned, how you have learned it, what progress you have seen, what may be done differently, and how to modify your learning style to facilitate development. Daily self-evaluation of your language learning skills is crucial, especially if you are doing it solo. In the absence of an instructor, reflection is another approach to giving yourself some useful feedback.

Many of us are hesitant to participate in or speak during English-language conversations because we are unsure of what to say. We worry that what we say might not be suitable or that we might err. By being prepared, we can quickly solve this issue. Are your coworkers joining you at a restaurant? Consider scenarios where you might need to use English. maybe place a food order? Request modifications to a meal. find out your coworkers' preferences? Request the bill. What vocabularies are necessary for these circumstances? Make a short list of suitable phrases to utilize.

### **6.Speak**

Yes, speaking. There isn't a miracle cure that will make you talk more clearly. To improve your English, you must place yourself in circumstances where you must communicate in English. Begin modestly. Do you reside or work in an environment where you must speak English to function? Great! Utilize this opportunity by conversing with those nearby. As long as you can communicate, it doesn't matter where it is—it may be at work or even in a coffee shop.

If you don't have that benefit, speak English with your coworkers or classmates to practice. Selecting someone who speaks a different language from you makes it simpler since it pushes you to use English as your language of communication.

### **7.Practise**

We must emphasize this. The secret to success while learning to speak English or any other language is persistent, regular practice. The advice we provided above only functions if you

follow it consistently. So this is what we advise. Spend just 10 minutes every day performing 1-2 of the aforementioned tasks to get started. Maybe watch a quick video clip today and try to mimic it. Consider what you have discovered. Pick up a quick piece tomorrow. Read aloud and give your own personal summary. Think about what you read and the new vocabulary.

You'll have more time on some days. Spend additional time when you can, but always do the bare minimum each day. In no time, you'll notice a significant improvement in your skills! You'll become more assured and prepared for greater challenges as you advance. Find speaking partners now and put yourself in circumstances where speaking English is necessary. Don't stress about making errors. The majority of people don't care if you make errors. Communication abilities, in particular, require practice to be mastered. Practicing your pronunciation, expanding your vocabulary, and improving your comprehension will benefit you if you speak more often.

#### **To improve your English speaking skills, try these tried-and-true techniques:**

- **Find a Conversation Partner:** Finding a native English speaker with whom you can converse in English is ideal if at all possible. Consider hiring a tutor if no one in your direct network is familiar to you. Otherwise, you may always connect with someone online to practice speaking and listening.
- **Make Sure To Listen As Well As Speak:** Listening to people speak is one of the finest methods to develop your vocabulary and gain an understanding of how sentences are put together. Try hearing podcasts and chats that have been recorded. There are countless opportunities to interact with English-speaking people, from YouTube to casual talks.
- **Record Your Conversation Practice:** You're inclined to make blunders while you speak. But to learn from errors, you must be willing to make them. You can learn more effectively if you record yourself conversing with your conversation partner and play it back. You can monitor your development and learn pronunciation this way.
- **Surround Yourself With The English Language:** English is widely used. No matter where you live, you can discover English-language menus, advertisements, books, movies, road signs, and more. Your foundation will be stronger the more you immerse yourself in and pay attention to these everyday English elements.
- **Practice With Music and Movies:** The majority of people find that watching movies or listening to music helps them to unwind. You have the option of watching movies in English or your native tongue with readable English subtitles.
- **Read Aloud:** Try reading aloud if you prefer to read to speaking and making up your discussion. As a result, you can read and see the words while also hearing yourself say them, which helps you recall them better.
- **Talk To Yourself:** Talk to yourself if you're still dubious of your readiness to put your speaking abilities to the test. The more you practice by yourself, the better your English will become.

#### **Things we can do in the classroom to improve speaking skills in students:**

- Encourage dialogue to get pupils to speak more actively.
- If a learner is creating short sentences with simple syntax, finish the sentence with a sample syntactic structure.

- They will become fearless or lose their reluctance to talk in front of people if they maintain eye contact.
- Remind the class to speak clearly and out loud.
- Encourage pupils to sum up what they heard to help them produce coherent sentences while listening well and develop their speaking abilities.
- Conduct listening lessons similar to brief motivational videos, narrative classes, or listening lessons on biographies to help students' vocabulary and sentence structure.
- Consider including a "question of the day."
- Create a phrase collection for the class.

### Final thoughts

Developing oral fluency takes time and effort on the part of the student, and effective planning, guidance, and patience on the part of the teacher. With that being said, we can see that many factors need to be considered before conducting speaking activities. Teachers need to determine the speaking skills that students need to work on and whether the students have sufficient or relevant input. It is also important to include useful lists of fixed conversational phrases or chunks and to teach strategies that can help students sustain conversations. We've also discussed the effectiveness of setting time limits such as the widely used 4/3/2 method and some key aspects of pronunciation. Finally, the way that feedback is implemented during speaking activities is of utmost importance, as this can make or break the success of a speaking activity as well as your students' ability to progress or develop fluency. By taking these factors into account, teachers can help their students to develop into more confident and competent speakers of English.

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