



EFFECTIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILL

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Annotation: *This article provides useful tips and effective methods for improving one of the most important skills: speaking. It also highlights common mistakes that many learners make and how to avoid them.*

Keywords: *ineffective methods, shadowing, practice, simultaneously, peaceful atmosphere, interesting methods, logical thinking, body language, confidence, new techniques.*

Many people believe the gap between effort and results is very short. There are countless individuals who say, "I'm practicing speaking, but I don't see any results." There are two main reasons for this:

1. Not practicing with a clear plan.
2. Using the wrong or ineffective methods.

Let's take a closer look at these points one by one.

According to experts, to reach a noticeable level in any field, everyone needs to practice for 1,000 to 2,000 hours. One of the key principles of speaking is speaking a lot. If a person doesn't have a daily speaking plan, even speaking for 15 minutes might feel like a lot. As a result, their confidence may decrease, and they may begin to dislike speaking altogether.

There are some helpful methods to avoid this. For example, draw an image of an elephant on a sheet of paper and divide it into 1,000 small boxes using lines. Each box represents one hour. Every time the learner practices speaking for an hour, they can color in a box with colored pencils. This method helps people stay calm and motivated. They may think, "Once I finish coloring the elephant, I will reach a good level," which reduces anxiety and discouragement. If this method is done in a group as a competition, it becomes even more engaging.

The most common speaking mistakes:

1. Memorizing samples.

Yes, this can be slightly helpful for remembering collocations. However, overall, it reduces naturalness and makes your speech sound robotic.

2. Fear of making mistakes.

There's no doubt—nobody is perfect. If you're making mistakes, it means you're improving.

3. Not generating ideas.

Some questions may be thought-provoking. Many learners feel discouraged if they can't answer such questions. But think about it: could you answer that question



even in your native language? If not, then read an article or listen to a podcast on that topic to gather ideas.

Top tips for improving speaking skill:

1. You need to be interesting.

Start your speech with phrases like:

Of course, you know what!, Absolutely, yeah!, Yes, who doesn't like it?!, Ouuu, that's an interesting question, I like to think so...

2. Avoid repetition.

That's just boring. When you face a question you've already answered before, try to give a different or alternative response.

3. Your voice can help you sound more interesting!

English is a lively language, with stress on syllables and words. Use your voice to convey feelings. Emphasize important words to express emotions. This will make your speech sound more spontaneous and natural.

It's very ineffective when people speak with a flat tone for every answer. Imagine someone saying the sentence "It sounds amazing!" in a dull, boring voice—it just doesn't work.

4. Use body language.

Body language can help you clarify your answers and make them more engaging.

5. Don't be too shy.

Nowadays, excessive shyness can signal a lack of confidence.

How to prepare:

- Read as much as possible and retell what you read. This can help improve imagination, creativity, and logical thinking. It also helps you speak more smoothly and fluently without hesitation.

- Work on your listening skills. If you don't understand the question, you can't answer it properly.

- Read speaking sample manuals slowly and carefully.

Go through the speaking books at a steady pace, paying close attention. Take notes if needed. Highlight useful phrases or sentence structures.

- Practice speaking out loud, especially for Part 2 of the IELTS.

Don't worry too much about making mistakes. Focus on speaking smoothly and using appropriate vocabulary. If you can't remember a word in English, try to explain it in other words. You can always look it up later and learn it.

- Try to plan 5 key points for every possible Part 2 topic.

Once you learn how to organize your ideas, you'll notice that most topics follow a similar pattern. After you have your 5 points, create 2–3 sentences for each one. This should take around 2 minutes—just the right amount of time! Keep practicing until you feel confident.

- Don't wait for the perfect moment!



For listening practice, you might need a quiet place; for reading, you may want a peaceful atmosphere. But for speaking, you don't need any special environment—your mouth is always with you! You can speak at any time and in any place. For example, while walking on the street, look at the trees or birds and talk about them. Don't be shy to speak to yourself.

- Make speaking more interesting. Doing the same activity every day can be boring. So try to practice speaking English in different ways. For example:

Watch an English movie and discuss it with a partner. Read an interesting book and retell it in your own words or speak to yourself in front of a mirror. And also while listening to songs in your native language, try to translate the lyrics into English simultaneously.

- Pronunciation is fundamental!

When learning new words, always pay attention to their pronunciation. If your pronunciation is unclear, people might not understand you—even if you use advanced vocabulary. One of the best ways to improve your pronunciation and sound more like a native speaker is to practice shadowing for at least 30 minutes every single day.

Conclusion:

Speaking is a skill that improves with consistent practice. To achieve good results, it's important to work with a clear plan, use effective methods, and most importantly — not be afraid of making mistakes. Every small effort is a step toward great progress. Keep working on yourself, speak a little every day, try new techniques, and enjoy the process. Remember: as long as you are trying, you are definitely improving!

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