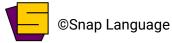
7 Tips to Improve Your Speaking Skills in English

(B-Level, Intermediate)

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A Very Brief Summary

- **Tip 1.** Check your mindset. A positive attitude goes a long way in accomplishing anything you do.
- **Tip 2.** Check your attitude. Have a positive attitude and a sense of humor about learning new skills.
- **Tip 3.** Focus on communication. There is a time to learn the language and a time to use what you have learned. When speaking, focus on communicating your ideas.
- Tip 4. Fluency is not about speed. Speak at a pace that is comfortable for you.
- **Tip 5. Use discourse markers.** Native and fluent speakers use discourse markers to pace themselves as they speak. (Be careful not to over use them, though.)
- **Tip 6. "Speak around" vocabulary you do not know or have forgotten.** Use words you do know or remember instead of getting stuck on a word or expression.
- **TIP 7. Practice speaking in different situations.** Speaking in a new situation can be uncomfortable, so practice in as many situations as possible.



Reflection

- 1. Which of the above tips do you believe are the most helpful? Why?
- 2. Which of the above tips do you believe may not be very helpful? Why not?
- 3. In addition to the above tips, what else do you find helpful to improve your speaking skills?
- 4. What is your attitude toward learning in general?
- 5. What is your attitude toward learning English?
- 6. How do you feel when you make mistakes while speaking?
- 7. Does it bother you when others make mistakes while speaking English? Why?
- 8. According to Franco, why is it important to focus on communication rather than on making mistakes or speaking "perfect English?"
- 9. In your experience, do English-language learners judge each other for how well they can speak English? If so, why do you think they do that?

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