

7 Tips to Improve Your Speaking Skills in English

(C-Level, Advanced)

This is a handout for [an advanced speaking skills lesson](#).

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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. Have a sense of humor. Have a positive attitude and a sense of humor about learning new skills.

Tip 3. Focus on communicating. 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. Remember that 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. (Do not over use them, though.)

Tip 6. "Speak around" vocabulary and structures. Use words you do know or remember to explain what you want to say instead of getting stuck or giving up.

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 might 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 specifically?
6. How do you feel when you make mistakes while speaking?
7. Do you judge other people's performance when they make mistakes in English? Why?
8. According to Franco, why is it important to focus on communication rather than on trying to speak "perfect English" all the time?
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?
10. What can be done to improve the learning environment in the English-language classroom?

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