



BASIC SKILLING IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR BETTER LIFE STYLE

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Language – Life Line for Life

The purpose of study of foreign language and particularly in case of English is to improve the four skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. The ultimate purpose to study English is to let learners be able to use the language. The phonetics, large vocabulary and good grammar are necessary to use the language. One should be good at listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One should be able to use the language, both in speaking and writing. Most of the students do better in reading and writing as compared to listening and speaking. They can read and write, but they can hardly communicate similarly can hardly express themselves with their own words. It may be partially because of our examination system, and partially of the teaching method. In most cases the teachers like to provide a lot of knowledge-words, phrases, grammar, usages and so on, focuses especially on the grammar. The student should learn how to study and how to use the foreign language. The article speaks about English study as foreign language particularly for Indian students. The following are ways on developing the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Listening

The four skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing are important in studying English. The student can't say that he is mastered the language without any one of them. Listening is one of the means of language communication and used most widely in people's daily lives. In linguistics, a lot of listening activities is a good way of enlarging vocabulary like listening to the radio, listening to the music, watching and receiving TV programmes. On the other hand, it also helps to improve the listening comprehension. Normally students think that the most bothering and most difficult is listening comprehension. It is difficult of a student to understand the listening material in absence of enough vocabulary and the ability of telling the grammar construction. Most of the students have low listening comprehension thing because they don't understand or know the knowledge about linguistic. The students are not able to tell the means of what they have heard.

Students have their own listening habits e.g. some often try to understand each word or each sentence. Students think hard when they meet some difficult words or sentences. A great many students could understand the material directly. Most of the students often translate the English into mother tongue in their heart to understand the sentence and again try to produce in English. This is also a reason to understand each word is difficult.

The listening skill can be improved by adopting certain skills. The largest difference between mother language learning and foreign language learning is the environment. E.g. A child can soon learn his mother language well. He has heard a lot before he can say something and walk. Then after he is able to walk and say, he has a chance of listening to more. Before he goes to school, he has already been a good listener and speaker. In case of a foreign language, learner can meet it only in formal places, classes; otherwise, can hardly have a chance to meet it. Student should try to be in a language environment and should grasp the phonetic symbol. A good intonation and phonetic depends on the base. Oral reading after a radio or a teacher is a good way at the beginning; students should do much about it.

Student should pay attention to the oral reading skill like stress, strong form, weak form, intonation incomplete plosive consonant, affricate consonant, syllable and so on. Training and practicing the oral reading is not a day's word. The teacher must give correct information about it and there is no easy way. Students should enlarge the ' knowledge about English and encourage themselves to read something in their spare time about geography, history, culture, stories and so on. Listening test and listening practice are necessary, but practice is more important. Student can understand them self through listening tests and can improve listening comprehension through the practice.

Speaking

Speaking can't be taught separately as it is often connected with listening. The traditional way of listening and speaking is aural-oral method. The new method of two-way communication is very popular. Any teaching

method has its psychological base. The aural-oral method began in the 1940's. It is based on behaviorism. One of its psychological theories is that learning a language is forming a set of new language habit. This is its usual process: Stimulus-Response-Reinforcement(S-R-R). The aural-oral method is fit for the teaching of beginning stage. It focuses on the practice of oral English drills. But too many drills are being practiced without any context or given conditions. The two-way communication makes up for the defect in communicative ability in the traditional teaching. Two-way means the relationship of the communication between the teacher and the students.

This relationship is connected with the communicative activities between teacher and student. This method is different from the traditional aural-oral method. It is also bases on the process of S-R-R, so it is called as mew type of aural-oral method has some peculiarities. It can create a fresh environment for speaking English. It needs some necessary explanations of grammar, including some sentence structures. The internal force of study is not due to the interests in phonetic structure, but the content of the material. The two-way communication can lengthen the dialogue limitlessly. The student wants to give the correct response; he has to think it hard. The aural-oral method is not an out-of-date one, but a useful one. Especially it is fit for the beginning stage. The method attaches the importance to the oral drills, and has a bad communicative function as it is only used to phonetic base. The two-way communication is more effective and direct, but it is also fit for the beginning stage.

Reading

Reading is an important way of gaining information in foreign language learning, it is a basic skill for a foreign language learner. There is a lot of reading exercises in an examination today. All these readings must be done in limited time. So learners are asked to read correctly and with a certain speed and should change bad reading habit and raise reading efficiency to do the same. New words prevent from reading fast; the way to overcome this problem is to guess. There are many ways to guess the meaning of a new word.

Reading habit and reading skill can affect reading speed. The students follow bad reading habits like someone reads word by word or with finger pointing to the words or with head shaking. Students should read phrase by phrase by just moving eyeball. Reading with eye blinking and shaking head are not advisable. There must be a proper distance between eyes and the reading material. Browsing is an important step while reading comprehension. Normally students begin to read at once when get a reading material, even without knowing, its title. But after reading for many times, won't understand what the article says. Looking through the material first means fore-reading. E.g. in an examination, examinee want to gain the information which the questions ask, examinee can't read the material in a usual way, can't read the whole material word by word. Examinee has to omit some sentence, sometimes even a whole paragraph, which have nothing to do with the questions. Examinee might read the given questions fast as well, then the material. There is an advantage to do this. Reading the material with the questions can save time.

Writing

Writing is one way of providing variety in learning procedures. It provides with physical evidence of learner achievements and becomes a course to measure improvement. It helps to consolidate the students' grasp of vocabulary and structure, and complements the other language skills. Sentence is the base of an article. Student should begin writing with sentences and should be asked to express with sentences-sentences making, then to write short articles.

Generally speaking these four skills can't be separated. It is often said "First listening and speaking, then reading and writing". That's right. But this way of saying is fit for the beginning stage. For advance stage, reading and writing is more important. Before going to have a new lesson, do reading and writing first. Ask yourself to read the text in advance, and do some exercises connected with the text. Listening and speaking are the major ways while study the new lesson. Be sure to let the lesson go on in a foreign language situation.