



CHALLENGES IN IMPROVING COMMUNICATIVE BASIC SKILLS IN LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This article discusses English language skills to improve perception, as well as the ability to improve speaking skills. The process of mastering a new language, particularly English, is often filled with significant challenges. While the importance of developing a set of core language skills — such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing — is well established, many learners still find it difficult to achieve fluency and competence in these areas. This article explores the key challenges faced by English learners and offers insights into how to improve fundamental communicative skills.

Key words: English language, methodology, skills, conversation, communicative skills, live communication.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language consists of several essential skills, each contributing to the holistic process of communication: speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. While many learners expect that mastering one skill will lead to automatic improvement in others, this is often not the case. Each skill requires focused attention, and improvement in one area does not necessarily translate to proficiency in another. For example, learners may excel in reading comprehension but struggle to speak or write accurately. Likewise, they may find it difficult to understand spoken language despite having a strong grasp of grammar.

Thus, while there is a relationship between language skills, their development must be approached in a balanced way. Focusing too heavily on one aspect, such as



reading or grammar, can result in neglecting the others, leading to gaps in communication ability. To effectively improve English proficiency, learners must engage in exercises that target all core skills and take a systematic approach to language acquisition.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In today's market, many language learning programs and online platforms promise "effortless" language acquisition, suggesting that learners can acquire English by passive means, such as listening to audio recordings while sleeping or watching TV programs at high speed. These methods, however, are often misleading. While they may provide some exposure to the language, they cannot replace the hard work and intentional practice required to achieve fluency. Real language mastery comes only through sustained, focused effort, and no shortcut can replace this reality.

Many learners mistakenly believe that enrolling in a language course or hiring a tutor will automatically guarantee success. However, these resources typically offer only a small portion of the learning process, typically no more than 10% of what is needed. The remaining 90% of the work involves independent practice — listening, speaking, reading, and writing regularly. Without consistent self-directed effort, learners are unlikely to develop real language proficiency.

Language learning can be divided into two main stages: *foundation building* and *application*.

1. **Foundation Building:** The first stage is focused on laying the groundwork for language acquisition. Learners must dedicate time to mastering the basics: sound patterns, pronunciation, vocabulary, and basic grammar. The goal is to make the foreign language more comprehensible and familiar. During this phase, it is crucial to immerse oneself in language practice, even if progress seems slow. Over time, the brain will adjust to the new sounds, structures, and rhythms of the language. Repetition and careful attention to detail will ensure



that learners are able to intuitively recognize and pronounce new words. This stage is complete when learners can comprehend spoken and written information in the language, even if they are not yet able to speak or write fluently.

2. **Application:** The second stage is where learners move beyond theoretical knowledge and begin to apply what they have learned in real-world situations. This stage involves speaking and writing more actively, as well as engaging in listening practice through unadapted, natural language sources. Language courses typically use simplified or adapted materials, which may not be sufficient to develop fluency in everyday communication. To move toward true proficiency, learners must expose themselves to authentic language through films, conversations, books, and other sources of real-world discourse.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

While many people believe that conversational skills can only be developed through live communication with a partner, this is not entirely true. At the initial stages of language learning, engaging in dialogue with a partner can be overwhelming and unproductive. Instead, learners should focus on speaking aloud with language materials, such as dialogues from movies or recorded conversations. Speaking aloud helps develop the motor memory necessary for proper pronunciation and speech production.

Motor memory is the foundation of fluent speech. Just as children learn to speak by repeating sounds and phrases, adult learners must practice speaking repeatedly to internalize correct pronunciation. This can be done by mimicking the pronunciation of native speakers and gradually increasing the complexity of the phrases. The more learners speak aloud, the more their speech organs will become accustomed to the new language, and their pronunciation will improve.



It is essential to repeat sentences aloud in various contexts, as this will reinforce the memory and lead to greater fluency. Audio recordings of conversational speech are particularly beneficial because they provide learners with examples of natural language use. Without these recordings, it is difficult to form accurate pronunciation or understand the nuances of conversational speech.

Pronunciation can be one of the most difficult challenges in learning English. At first, learners may struggle to pronounce phrases correctly, and it may feel awkward to speak in a new language. However, persistence is key. One effective strategy is to break down a phrase into smaller, manageable chunks. By practicing each segment of the sentence individually, learners can gradually work their way up to pronouncing the entire phrase correctly. Over time, motor memory will take over, and speaking will become more natural.

Using synchronized texts and specialized language learning programs that incorporate real-world language examples can also help learners overcome difficulties with pronunciation. Programs that synchronize the text with the audio allow learners to hear and read the language simultaneously, helping them match the pronunciation with the written words. This method aids in the internalization of the language and accelerates the learning process.

IV. CONCLUSION

Improving communicative basic skills in English is a multifaceted process that requires dedication, consistency, and active practice. While the challenges are many, understanding the need for a structured, two-stage approach to language learning — one focused on building foundational knowledge and the other on real-world application — can make the process more manageable. Engaging with "live" language and incorporating regular speaking and listening practice will gradually build the skills necessary to communicate effectively in English. Most importantly,



learners should embrace the process, recognizing that language acquisition is a long-term endeavor that demands both patience and hard work.

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