

DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILLS IN ENGLISH IN HIGHER SCHOOL

Effective speaking is crucial in both personal and professional life. Whether it is making a presentation at work, engaging in social conversations, or speaking in public, the ability to articulate thoughts clearly and confidently can significantly impact one's success and overall communication.

However, it is not so easy to do even in native language. Analysis of the results in the Ukrainian Language and Literature Testing of the year 2021 shows that the most difficult were the tasks that involved formulating their own position on a particular issue and its argumentation. 82-86% of participants did not cope with it[2]. Developing effective speaking skills in English is a continuous process that requires dedication and effort.

The aim of the work is to identify the strategies for improving speaking skills in English. The analysis of studies in this field allowed to work out the main idea, that the key to mastering any skill is consistent practice. It is necessary to speak as often as it is possible, whether it is with friends, family, or in front of a mirror. The more a student practices, the more confident and proficient they will become. This approach to teaching provides natural environment for learning rather than repetition and memorization of grammatical patterns in artificially created situation

It is a good idea to join a speaking clubs. For example, at UEPA there are monthly meetings of Euroclub and Scientific Club held in English, which provide a platform for shaping skills of presentation and unprepared talk. The ability not to be afraid of mistakes and to see them as an integral part of growth results in becoming a better speaker.

Some practitioners also point at the use of recording self which can help identify areas for improvement. Listening to the recordings, assessing the tone, clarity, and pacing contributes to enhancing these aspects. Work on pronunciation and is vital for effective communication. It includes speaking slowly and articulating each word. Plenty of pronunciation exercises and resources can be found online.

On the other hand, active listening, that is, paying attention to others' speech enables to hear various accents, styles, and speech patterns. This leads to adaptation to different communication styles and making a listener a more versatile speaker.

In addition, constant expanding vocabulary allows better expression of thoughts. Reading books, articles, and listening to podcasts or TED Talks might be useful to learn new words and phrases.

Finally, improving non-verbal communication - body language, facial expressions, and gestures – plays a significant role in perception of someone's speech. Practice is needed to learn how to maintain a good eye contact, use appropriate hand gestures, and have an open and confident posture.

To sum up, by implementing mentioned above strategies, one can steadily improve their speaking abilities, and become a more confident, articulate, and influential communicator. It can benefit an individual in various aspects of life, such as personal relationships, career opportunities, and public speaking. However, this is a gradual process, demanding certain efforts. Whether for personal or professional growth, investing in honing speaking skills is a valuable endeavor that can open doors to success in various aspects of life.

References:

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