

Unit-2: Developing Oral skills (Listening and Speaking)

* Importance of listening and speaking in acquiring proficiency in English.

For an English language learner, it is necessary to be acquiring a good listening and speaking skill. Listening plays a very important role in student's success of learning language skills. It is the first step towards learning English. Listening is an activity of paying attention and trying to get meaning from something we hear. It involves understanding a speaker's accent and pronunciation, his grammar and vocabulary and grasping his meaning. For successful communication, listening skill is essential, so it should be taught to students.

After listening, students try to speak the language. Speaking is an act of making vocal sounds with meaningful words. It is a way to express thoughts, ideas and feelings. It gives the ability to communicate effectively. This skill improved the linguistic attributes such as voice quality, volume, tone, pronunciation.

⇒ Stages of listening

There are three stages in a listening activity :-

- i) The Pre-listening stage :- This is the first stage of teaching listening. In this stage teacher prepare the students to listen. Sometimes teacher uses CD or audio track to make it interesting. At this time we give them a little information, but not too much. Give them just a tiny bit of information like a meaningful words, title or a short sentence. And allow them to predict what they hear.
- ii) While-listening stage :- In this stage, students listen and do a task. Here, students try to get specific information. This is the actual listening stage where students are asked to do exercises based on the audio.
- iii) The Post-listening stage :- It is the final stage, where students can relate to the text. It embraces all the activities related to a particular listening activity which are done after the listening is completed. This is the problem-solving and decision-making activities stage.

⇒ Activities for speaking

- i) Give chance to speak poem.
- ii) Watch films that model conversation skills.
- iii) Use pictures
- iv) Give chance to talk with each other.
- v) Role-play

* Identification of and production of distinctive sounds in English: Syllable, Stress, intonation and rhythm

Sound :- Vibration that travels in air and reaches the ears of the living beings special in human beings and animals is called Sound.

Speech Sound (Phoneme) - The smallest unit of sound that differentiates one word from another, which is in other words called Phoneme.

→ English has just 26 letters but it has 44 Phonemes (Speech sound).

→ Graphemes :- It is a letter or a number of letters that represent a speech sound in a word. There is about 250 graphemes in English.

e.g. Dad add milled
 d dd ed

Cat Kit
 K ki

→ Phonemes are further divided into two categories - (i) Vowel speech sound
(ii) Consonant speech sound

Syllable :- A syllable is a unit of sound that creates meaning in language. It can be a single, spoken unbroken sound of a spoken word. Usually consonants join vowels to create syllables. However it can have more than one consonant and more than one vowel as well.

- Syllable can have more than one letter, however a syllable cannot have more than one sound.

- The number of times you hear vowel (a, e, i, o, u) in a word is the equal

do the number of syllables in a word.

- e.g Long - 'o' - one syllable
- Silent - 'si' with the long 'i' - two syllable
- Reading - 'ze', 'im' - two syllable

Stress: - Stress is the relative emphasis that may be given to certain syllables in a word or to certain words in a phrase or sentence.

- In English stressed syllables are louder than non-stressed syllables.

e.g admiration, degree, Parents

- In spoken language, grammatical words (auxiliary verbs, preposition, pronoun...) usually do not receive any stress.

- Lexical words (nouns, verbs, adjectives...) must have at least one stressed syllable.

- Lexical word is a single word, a part of a word, or a chain of words that forms the basic element of a sentence. e.g cat

- However there is no rule about which syllable is stressed in a word with more than one syllable.

Intonation:- Intonation describes how the voice rises and falls in speech. The three main patterns of intonation in English are:-

i) Falling intonation:- It describes how the voice falls on the final stressed syllable of a phrase.

ii) Rising intonation:- It describes how the voice rises at the end of a sentence.

iii) Fall-rise intonation:- It describes how the voice falls and then rises.

Rhythm:- It is the word for the way stressed and unstressed syllables make patterns in speech. It is marked by stress timing and quality of syllables.

→ Rhythm has a correlation with stress

→ Developing different speeds and knowing when to slow down and speed up can give your spoken English more "interest".

→ It is important for non-native speakers to understand and master the rhythm of English.

→ Rhythm makes sound natural & fluent.

* Recognizing words in various contexts.

Word recognizing is the ability of a reader to recognize written words correctly and virtually effortlessly. It sometimes referred as "isolated word recognition" because it involves a reader's ability to recognize words individually from the list without needing similar words for contextual help. Children's ability to recognize words can be developed by teacher's pointing out the words, by the variety of games, activities and by writing those words. For examples:- when a teacher tell a story about cow, a good readers develops the expectation that it will contain words associated with cow such as tail, milk etc. i.e. in this sentence.

The cow gives us _____
in given sentence, students must strike the word Milk.

→ word recognition connect with word's pronunciation with its meaning.

→ word identification is the ability to sound out words.

* Identifying meaning/gist, identifying emotions/feelings in an utterance:

An utterance is the smallest unit of speech. It is an act of uttering, vocal expression, manner of speaking, power of speaking. It is a continuous piece of speech beginning and ending with a clear pause. Utterances do not exist in written language only; their representations do. It includes many aspects of speech such as facial expression, gesture and posture. It also includes stress, intonation, tone of voice, rhythm. An utterance which is found in spoken and written language as in a script has several characteristics. These include paralinguistic features which is a feature of communication that doesn't involve words but is added around an utterance to give meaning. It is also a best way to express emotion & feelings. Emotion recognition is the process of identifying the affective characteristic of an utterance given either static or dynamic descriptions of its signal content. It seems to be natural & fluent.

It is necessary to develop utterance in children in early age by teachers and parents. In early childhood students

do learn quickly. Teacher must learn the large number of new words and vocabularies to the students. They give chances to the students to speak English in classroom. They also encourage them to speak English between friends. Enhance a positive atmosphere in classroom for utterance. Self-confidence is an important aspects of utterance. So, teacher must increase the self-confidence of their students.

* Producing language in acceptable forms:
Conveying information, Formulating an appropriate response.

Conveying information:- It means anyone communicate it to someone directly or indirectly through their words or actions. It is a way to express a thought, feeling, or ideas so that it is understood by other people.

Formulating an appropriate response:- when we respond to something, we are giving a response. It means the reaction to something or an answer given to a question.

* Presentation skill

Presentation skills are the skills you need in delivering effective and engaging presentations to a variety of audiences. These skills cover a variety of areas such as structure of presentation, the design of slides, the tone of voice and the body language of convey.

⇒ Structuring your presentation

Structuring is very important for presentation. An organised presentation creates an impression on audience. That's way speaker gain trust of audience. And that's why audience will be more likely to listen the speaker. Structure help speaker to become more comfortable and natural. These are the steps of structure -

- i) Purpose (Title)
- ii) Audience pre-assessment - Delivering right presentation to right audience.
- iii) opening presentation
- iv) Body of presentation
- v) Closing of presentation

In present time, it is important to develop presentation skill in students. Because a good presentation make any topic interesting. It increase the

confidence of students. For presentation students
 are enable to practice all four skills of
 language (speaking, reading, writing and
 listening). So, it is the responsibility of
 teacher to improve presentation skill in
 students.