

How to Teach Speaking?

- tips to teaching spoken grammar:
 - *passive knowledge approach* - allowing students to listen to competent speakers and study transcripts of what they say
 - this helps students become aware of the kind of speech phenomena frequently used by speakers
 - teaching spoken grammar directly: how to use certain spoken language phenomena
 - lexical phrases are an important component of fluent speech - teaching lexical phrases and adjacency pairs is important
 - students need to be aware of conversational strategies to respond in certain situations (for ex, if they don't understand the other speaker) - ***teachers should focus on discourse markers and useful phrases***
 - active listening skills are also important – teaching students how to use body language to indicate they are paying attentions
- how to deal with reluctant students?
 - make them feel relaxed to lower the affective filter (music can help)
 - match the speaking task with the level the students are capable of
 - use pairwork and groupwork instead of putting one student on the spot
 - give students time to prepare and practice before speaking
 - include quick fluency activities in each lesson instead of high-stakes, longer activities
 - prompt the student, participate in the activity, think about how to provide feedback to encourage communication
 - mandatory participation for all members of the group
- repetition is a key ingredient in successful language learning
 - one way to do this is to get the students to take, in turns, different parts in a dialogue
 - reciting poems and speeches can also be useful
- speaking activity types
 - acting from scripts
 - students act out scenes from plays and/or their coursebooks

- students writing their own dialogues and act them out
 - it is important to give them time to practice beforehand
- communication games
 - information gap games: one student has to talk to a partner in order to solve a puzzle, draw a picture, put things in the right order or find similarities and differences between pictures
 - television and radio games
- discussion groups
 - buzz groups (brainstorming): short and informal discussion on a specific topic that are useful for getting the students to think about a bigger, more formal task
 - formal debate: students prepare arguments in favour of or against various propositions
 - unplanned discussions
 - reaching a consensus: students need to decide as a result of choosing between specific alternatives
- prepared talks and presentations
- questionnaires
- simulation and role-play
- storytelling
- speaking sequences (quickspeak)
- making recordings
- interviews