**Tips to Improve Your Speaking Skills**

## Practice speaking for a limited time on different topics without a lot of preparation.

* Write down several questions about various topics. Then, select a question and answer it aloud. Try to talk for 1 minute.
  + *family*
  + *hobbies*
  + *friends*
  + *school*
  + *cities*
  + *countries*
  + *places you are familiar with*
* Ask a friend or your teacher to give you topics, and record yourself discussing them. Ask someone or your teacher to listen with you and suggest ways for you to improve.
* Think of a story that you are familiar with. Tell the story to several different people, and try to tell the story faster each time.
* Give yourself about 20 seconds to think about what you did yesterday. After 20 seconds, begin to recount what you did. Try to talk for 1 minute.
  + Pay attention to your use of the past tense.
  + Try to use connecting words and phrases such as *first, then, while I was*.
* Give yourself about 20 seconds to think about what you will probably do tomorrow. After 20 seconds, begin to talk about what you are planning to do. Try to talk for 1 minute.
  + Try to use different forms of the future tense.

## **Listen to the radio and watch TV and movies.**

* Pay attention to idiomatic usage of the language and different accents or speech patterns that are used.
* Write down new expressions you hear. Use the expressions in your everyday English conversations.
* Choose a character from a film or TV show. Repeat the character's words, following the intonation patterns, as he or she speaks. Include the gestures or other body language of the character you are imitating.
* Listen to a college radio station in your area.
  + Make a list of the kinds of topics being discussed.
  + Use the list to generate discussion topics with your friend or speaking partner.

## **Practice pronunciation and intonation by reading aloud.**

* Record yourself so you can hear your accent. Pay attention to your mistakes.
* Work on pronouncing word endings clearly.

Improving your speaking skills with <https://www.rong-chang.com/nse/>

## TOEFL Speaking Sample Questions and Responses

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