# **5 days to become a better English speaker**

If you would like to improve your English speaking skills, then this is the perfect place for you. Follow the instructions below to achieve your goal.

## **Day 1**

Welcome to Day 1 of **5 days to become a better speaker**! Babies learn how to speak by listening first. After all, 50 percent of a conversation is about understanding the other person. So that's where you need to start as well.

## **Tip 1:**

Listen to something in English every day! The more you hear a language the more familiar it will become. You will pick up new words, find out what they mean and learn how they are pronounced.

## **Task 1:**

On the Lernumgebung, you will find three audio clips in English. Listen to at least one of them and write down five words that you did not understand.

1: \_...\_

2: \_...\_

3: \_...\_

4: \_...\_

5: \_...\_

## **Day 2**

Have you written down five words from task one? Great, because we will need them for Day 2 of **5 days to become a better speaker**! But how do you know what these words mean and how they are pronounced?

## **Tip 2:**

Improving your vocabulary automatically improves your speaking. You will no longer have to think about the correct word, if you already know it.

## **Task 2:**

Look up the meaning of the five words you have written down in Task 1. On the Lernumgebung, you will find a link to an online translator, as well as the instructions of how to use it with Fusion. Write down their translation below.

1: \_...\_

2: \_...\_

3: \_...\_

4: \_...\_

5: \_...\_

## **Task 3:**

Improving your vocabulary is one thing, but you also need to practice it. On the Lernumgebung, you will find a link which will lead you to a lot of different pages where you can practice your vocabulary. Choose the right level for you and check your knowledge.

## **Day 3**

It's Day 3 of **5 days to become a better speaker** and you have already listened to people speak English, as well as having worked on your vocabulary. Which level did you chose for learning vocabulary?

\_...\_

## **Tip 3:**

Reading aloud. This is a great way to improve your English. It does not only improve fluency, but also pronunciation. It can build vocabulary as well as your confidence.

## **Task 4:**

Below, you will find a longer text about the author Ray Bradbury. I would like you to read this text aloud OR to listen to it sentence by sentence and repeat it.

**Text:**

You know Ray Bradbury. He’s the boy who, at the age of 12, went to see the travelling Dill Brothers Combined Shows that often passed through his home state of Illinois, and stood, entranced, before the spectacle of Mr Electrico, one autumn night.

The carnival act sat in an electric chair while a stagehand threw a lever that sent 50,000 volts pulsing through his body, his hair standing on end, lightning crawling over his skin like glowworms. He raised a sword, a real-life sword, and with electricity humming at its sharp tip, he anointed the young Bradbury with the lightning, exhorting him in a quiet whisper to "Live forever!"

You know Ray Bradbury. He's the man who wrote more than 600 short stories. You’ll have read some of them. If you haven’t, you’ll be aware of them, of the things he wrote about which has seeped into your consciousness through some strange osmosis, like a spell cast by an April witch.

## **Day 4**

Reading aloud might be something that you don't do that often, and I'm pretty sure, that tip 4 of **5 days to become a better speaker** is something that you do even less often. But first, let's repeat the tips from day 1 and 2.

Write down 5 words from the text about Ray Bradbury which you didn't understand. Write down the German translation as well.

1: \_...\_

2: \_...\_

3: \_...\_

4: \_...\_

5: \_...\_

## **Tip 4:**

Record yourself! On the Lernumgebung, you have the possibility to record yourself. It is very important to record yourself, but it is even more important to listen back to it. Nobody likes the sound of their own voice, but this is a crucial step of how to become a better English speaker.

## **Task 5:**

Go Day 5 on the Lernumgebung where you will find a voice recorder. Start the recording and read out the text about Ray Bradbury from Task 4, which you should already be more than familiar with.

## **Day 5**

This is already the last day of your five-day plan to improve your English speaking skills. You have listened to English speakers, you have practiced and improved your vocabulary, you have read a text aloud and recorded yourself doing so. But this last tip, might be the most important one.

## **Tip 5:**

Speak, speak, speak! The best way to speak better is to speak. You might now have the opportunity to speak English a lot, so use every chance you get. Try to force yourself to speak English. Here are a couple of suggestions which might help you to speak more:

**Speak to yourself in English:**

For this final task, I would like you to speak in English to yourself. Verbalize your thoughts and say them in English.

**Use online apps on your smartphone to speak to native speakers:**

Apps such as "Tandem" or "HelloTalk" can be used to talk to native speakers.

**Repeat tips 1 to 4:**  
Listen to things in English every day. Find an English-speaking podcast or try to watch a movie or your favourite TV show in English. Write down words that you don't know. Look up these words and don't forget to practice your vocabulary. Read things aloud, try to imitate native speakers and if you have the possibility record yourself.

## **Task 6:**

For your final task, you have to prepare to speak about a topic of your choice for 5 minutes. First, make some notes of what you would like to talk about.

Notes:

\_...\_

Secondly, practice what you want to say. Don't just think about it but say your thoughts out loud. Practice again and again until you are sure that you know what you want to say.

Thirdly, record yourself. On the Lernumgebung, you have the opportunity to record yourself for this part again. Do this and then listen back to your presentation. Did you talk for five minutes? How much of the time did you actually speak and many times did you have to find your words?

Practice again and again until you feel good about your five minutes. Now make an appointment with Mr Du Buisson. Once an appointment is set, present your five minutes to him and then get ready for a couple of follow up questions.

Send this document to Mr Du Buisson once you have presented your talk to him ([marc.dubuisson@sibu.ch](mailto:marc.dubuisson@sibu.ch))