

Product Requirements Document – Peer Speaking Practice Feature (Duolingo)

Problem Statement

Many Duolingo users struggle to improve their speaking skills because the app's current speaking exercises are too basic and repetitive. These tasks often lack real conversational context and do not help users build confidence in real-life communication. Additionally, the app offers no option to practice speaking with real people, which limits fluency development. As a result, users often leave the platform in search of more interactive speaking tools.

User Personas

1. Chalana (22)

College student learning German for a study abroad program

- Pain Point: Can understand German, but lacks speaking confidence
- Need: Real conversation practice with peers before travel

2. Saritha (40)

Corporate trainer learning French for international workshops

- Pain Point: Struggles to speak spontaneously during real situations
- Need: Safe and structured space to regularly practice

3. Prasad (60)

Retired teacher learning Spanish to help in bilingual communities

- Pain Point: Unsure about pronunciation, lacks fluency
- Need: Slow-paced, supportive conversations

User Stories

- As a language learner, I want to have real conversations with others, so I can build fluency and confidence.
- As a Duolingo user, I want guided speaking prompts, so I know what to say during practice.
- As a beginner, I want short, low-pressure sessions to start comfortably.
- As a user, I want the ability to rate or report partners, so I feel safe using the feature.

Feature Requirements

Must-Have

- Match users by language and level (e.g., A1, B1)
- Time-limited speaking sessions (e.g., 5 minutes)
- Predefined conversation prompts or role-play cards
- Audio-only or text fallback mode
- Report/block functionality for safety

Nice-to-Have

- Post-session rating system
- Option to favorite past partners
- Daily speaking challenge
- Auto-detect if a user disconnects early

Wireframe Sketch (Basic Flow)

1. 1. Speaking Practice Home

→ “Find a Speaking Partner” button

→ Language level selector

2. 2. During Session

→ Countdown timer (e.g., 5:00 min)

→ Topic prompt (e.g., “Talk about your last weekend”)

→ End Call / Report button

3. 3. Post Session

→ Feedback prompt: “Was your partner helpful?”

→ Thumbs up/down rating

→ Options: “Practice Again” or “Exit”

Success Metrics

- Daily Active Users for Speaking Feature
- ☑ Average Session Completion Rate
- Repeat Usage Rate (weekly)
- Post-Session Feedback Score

MoSCoW Prioritization Table

Priority	Feature
Must Have	Matchmaking, 5-min timer, role-play prompts, report/block
Should Have	Feedback/rating, structured prompts, session summary
Could Have	Daily challenge, partner favoriting, audio/text toggle
Won't Have	Video calls, group speaking rooms, AI scoring (initial launch only)

Final Notes

This project proposes a new Peer-to-Peer Speaking Practice feature to improve user fluency and engagement. It supports real-time conversations with matched learners, guided by prompts and protected by safety tools.