

Speaking Skills ★★★★★

— Introduction —

Speaking skill is productive output, but learners apply this skill in a need to produce language. This is also known as active skill i.e. the action of producing English language during the academic learning process and at the work place and in daily life in many forms such as public speaking. It is an instant communication process.

— Speaking Techniques —

Following techniques should be considered for mastering speaking skill of English language.

- Speak word endings very clearly.
- Speak neither too slow nor too fast.
- Speak to express but not to impress.
- Use your presence of mind while speaking.
- Show interest with others while speaking.
- Listen the audience patiently during speaking.

Stress

Stress is characteristic of speech. It is comparatively a greater amount of force that is used in the pronunciation of a particular syllable.

Stressed Syllable

While speaking a word, we use extra force in uttering some syllable or syllables in that word - this extra force is called stress and the syllable is called stressed syllable.

Two Types of stress

→ Word Stress

→ Sentence Stress

(i) Word Stress :-

In single words, stress is placed on syllables.

There are some rules which we have to follow.

- 1 → One word has only one primary stress in it, one word cannot have two stresses.
- 2 → We stress according to the quality of ^{vowels} words, not consonants.
- 3 → If a word is used as a noun, we place the stress on the first syllable & if the same word is used as a verb, we place stress on

Second syllable.

e.g: Desert: noun (de-sert; verb (dē-sert).

(ii) Sentence Stress:-

In sentences, we place stress on word.

Sentence stress is accent on certain words

within a sentence these are two classes of words:

→ Content words

→ Structure words

Content words:

Content words, or lexical words (including nouns, verbs, adjectives and most adverbs), are words that carry the content or the meaning of a sentence.

Main Verbs	Sell, give, write, come, go
Nouns	Chair, book, table, man
Adjectives	Red, big, interesting, intelligent
Adverbs	Quickly, loudly, never, always
All question words	When, where, how, why

Structure Words:

Words showing grammatical relationship. They are not stressed.

Pronouns	We, you, they
Preposition	In, on, at, from
Articles	A, an, the
Conjunction	And, but, because
Auxiliary verbs	Do, be, have, can, must

— Intonation in English —

Intonation can be defined as the linguistic use of pitch in utterance. Every language has melody in it; no language is spoken on the same pitch all the time. The voice goes up and down and the different pitches of the voice combine to make the melody of a language.

Functions of Intonation

Intonation has following main functions:

- Attitudinal Function
- Grammatical Function
- Accentual Function/attitude

(1) Attitudinal Function:

It enables us to express emotions and attitudes when we speak. This adds a special kind of meaning to speech.

e.g :- When can you come? (normal question falling tone).

When can you come? (police question rising tone).

(2) Grammatical Function:

It enables us to recognize the grammatical and syntactical structure of what is being said and it is the grammatical function of intonation.

e.g :- He is arriving late. (Statement falling tone)

He is arriving late? (question, rising tone)

(3) Accentual attitude:

Intonation helps to produce the effect of prominence on syllables that needs to be perceived when stressed. By accents, we can change the meaning.

e.g :-

I went to college. (to college, nowhere else)

I, went to college. (I, and no one else)