

**THE ROLE OF INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING LISTENING AND  
SPEAKING SKILLS IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM**

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**Abstract:** The development of listening and speaking skills is one of the most important objectives in English language teaching, as these productive and receptive abilities form the basis of effective communication. In modern language classrooms, interactive activities play a significant role in creating meaningful opportunities for learners to practice oral communication, improve listening comprehension, and participate actively in the learning process. This article examines the role of interactive activities in developing listening and speaking skills in the English classroom. It highlights how pair work, group discussions, role-plays, information gap tasks, interviews, problem-solving activities, and classroom dialogues contribute to learners' communicative competence, motivation, confidence, and fluency. The study is based on theoretical and methodological analysis of pedagogical literature related to communicative language teaching and skill-based instruction. The findings indicate that interactive activities create a learner-centered environment, reduce speaking anxiety, encourage cooperation, and improve both comprehension and oral performance. The article concludes that the effective use of interactive activities significantly enhances the teaching and learning of listening and speaking skills in English language education.

**Keywords:** interactive activities, listening skills, speaking skills, English classroom, communicative competence, language teaching, learner participation, oral communication, listening comprehension, fluency

**INTRODUCTION**

In contemporary English language teaching, the development of listening and speaking skills has become one of the central priorities of classroom instruction. These two language skills are essential for effective communication, as listening enables learners to understand spoken language, while speaking allows them to express thoughts, ideas, and responses in real-life situations. In many educational contexts, however, learners often face difficulties in mastering these skills due to limited exposure to authentic communication, lack of confidence, and insufficient opportunities for active classroom participation. As a result, teachers are increasingly seeking more effective and learner-centered methods to improve oral language proficiency. One of the most productive ways of addressing this challenge is through the use of interactive activities in the English classroom. Interactive activities such as pair work, group discussions, role-plays, interviews, information-gap tasks, storytelling, and problem-solving exercises create meaningful situations in which learners can use language for communicative purposes. Unlike traditional teacher-centered methods that often focus on passive learning and mechanical repetition, interactive activities encourage students to listen attentively, respond appropriately, exchange ideas, and collaborate with others. This makes the learning process more dynamic, engaging, and practical. The importance of interactive activities lies not only in their ability to improve linguistic performance but also in their positive influence on learners' motivation, confidence, and willingness to communicate. Through regular participation in interactive tasks,

students become more active, independent, and comfortable in using English. They also develop important sub-skills such as pronunciation, fluency, comprehension, turn-taking, and spontaneous speech production. This topic remains highly relevant in modern pedagogy because current educational approaches emphasize communicative competence and learner-centered instruction. In this context, the role of interactive activities in developing listening and speaking skills deserves special academic attention. Therefore, this article aims to examine how interactive classroom activities contribute to the effective development of listening and speaking abilities in English language teaching and to highlight their methodological significance in the learning process.

### **Interactive methods for teaching listening skills**

Interactive methods for teaching listening skills play a crucial role in modern English language education because they transform listening from a passive activity into an active and meaningful learning process. Listening is one of the most essential receptive skills in language acquisition, as it enables learners to understand spoken language, interpret meaning, and respond appropriately in communication. However, many students find listening difficult due to unfamiliar vocabulary, different accents, speed of speech, and lack of real-life practice. For this reason, interactive methods are considered highly effective in helping learners develop listening comprehension in a more engaging and supportive classroom environment. One of the most commonly used interactive methods is pair and group listening tasks. In these activities, students listen to an audio text, conversation, or short dialogue and then work together to answer comprehension questions, discuss key ideas, or compare their understanding. This method encourages cooperation and allows learners to clarify information with their peers, which reduces anxiety and improves comprehension. Group interaction after listening also helps students develop the ability to interpret meaning rather than simply recognize words. Another important method is the use of information-gap activities. In this approach, each student receives different pieces of information, and they must listen carefully to their partner or group members in order to complete the missing details. This creates a real communicative purpose for listening and makes students more attentive. Information-gap tasks are especially effective because they combine listening with speaking, allowing learners to process information actively and use it immediately in communication. Role-plays and simulations are also valuable interactive methods for teaching listening skills. In these activities, students listen to instructions, dialogues, or situational prompts and then act out roles in pairs or groups. Such tasks help learners improve their ability to understand spoken language in context and respond naturally. Role-plays also expose students to functional language used in everyday situations, such as greetings, asking for information, making requests, or solving problems.

Listening and discussion activities are widely used in communicative classrooms. After listening to a short story, interview, lecture, or conversation, students discuss the content, express opinions, summarize ideas, or answer open-ended questions. This method develops not only listening comprehension but also critical thinking and speaking skills. It encourages learners to listen for main ideas, specific details, and implied meanings, which are all important components of effective listening. Another effective interactive method is task-based listening. In task-based activities, students listen to complete a specific task such as filling out a chart, sequencing events, identifying differences, matching information, or solving a problem. Because learners have a clear objective while listening, they become more focused and motivated. Task-based listening reflects real-life listening situations where people listen for a purpose, such as following directions, understanding announcements, or gathering information. Teachers also frequently use games and interactive listening exercises to make listening lessons more enjoyable and less stressful. Activities such as listening bingo, dictation races, "listen and draw," true-or-false

games, and guessing activities encourage students to concentrate while creating a fun learning atmosphere. These methods are especially useful for younger learners or lower-level students because they increase motivation and reduce fear of making mistakes. In addition, multimedia-based interactive listening has become increasingly important in modern classrooms. Teachers can use videos, podcasts, songs, digital dialogues, and online listening platforms to provide authentic listening input. When students watch or listen to multimedia materials and then complete interactive follow-up tasks such as discussions, predictions, or role-plays, they are exposed to natural pronunciation, intonation, and real-life language use. This greatly improves their listening accuracy and confidence. The effectiveness of interactive methods in teaching listening lies in their learner centered nature. These methods encourage active participation, peer collaboration, and immediate response, which help learners stay engaged and attentive. They also allow students to practice listening in meaningful contexts rather than through isolated drills. As a result, learners gradually become more confident in understanding spoken English, identifying important information, and participating in oral communication. In conclusion, interactive methods for teaching listening skills are essential in the English classroom because they make listening more dynamic, purposeful, and communicative. Through pair work, group discussions, information-gap tasks, role-plays, task-based exercises, games, and multimedia resources, teachers can create effective conditions for developing listening comprehension. These methods not only improve learners' ability to understand spoken English but also prepare them for real-life communication, where listening is closely connected with interaction and response.

#### **Interactive methods for teaching speaking skills**

Interactive methods for teaching speaking skills are among the most effective approaches in modern English language education because they provide learners with meaningful opportunities to use language actively in real communication. Speaking is one of the most important productive skills, as it allows students to express their ideas, feelings, opinions, and responses in spoken form. However, many learners face difficulties in speaking English due to lack of confidence, fear of making mistakes, limited vocabulary, poor pronunciation, and insufficient practice. For this reason, interactive methods are widely used in the English classroom to make speaking activities more engaging, communicative, and learner-centered. One of the most common interactive methods for teaching speaking is pair work. In pair activities, students practice short dialogues, ask and answer questions, exchange personal information, or discuss simple topics with a partner. This method creates a comfortable atmosphere in which learners can speak more freely and with less anxiety than in front of the whole class. Pair work increases speaking time for each student and helps them develop fluency, pronunciation, and confidence through regular practice. Group discussions are another important interactive method for developing speaking skills. In this activity, students work in small groups to share ideas, express opinions, solve problems, or discuss a specific topic. Group discussions encourage learners to speak spontaneously, listen to others, and respond appropriately in conversation. They also help students practice turn-taking, argumentation, agreement and disagreement, and the use of functional language in social interaction. This method is especially useful for developing communicative competence and critical thinking. Role-plays and simulations are highly effective for improving speaking ability because they place students in realistic communicative situations. In role-play activities, learners act as different characters in everyday contexts such as at a restaurant, in a shop, at the airport, in a classroom, or during an interview. Simulations allow students to practice real-life communication by solving practical problems or performing social roles. These methods improve not only fluency but also pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary usage, and confidence in spontaneous speaking. Another valuable interactive method is the use

of dialogues and conversation practice. Teachers can provide model dialogues or encourage students to create their own conversations based on a given topic or situation. Through repeated practice, students learn how to initiate conversations, ask for clarification, give responses, and maintain communication. Dialogue-based activities are especially helpful for beginners because they provide a clear structure while still allowing room for communicative interaction.

Information-gap activities are also widely used for speaking development. In these tasks, each student has different information, and they must communicate with each other to complete the missing details. Because the task cannot be completed without speaking, learners are naturally motivated to ask questions, explain information, and listen carefully to their partners. This method creates a real purpose for communication and helps students use English more naturally and meaningfully. Problem-solving and decision-making tasks are important interactive speaking methods that encourage learners to use language creatively. In these activities, students work together to solve a problem, choose the best solution, rank items, or make a group decision. Such tasks promote active discussion, negotiation, reasoning, and explanation. They are especially useful for intermediate and advanced learners because they require longer speaking turns and more complex language use. Interviews and surveys are also effective in teaching speaking skills. In interview activities, students ask classmates prepared or spontaneous questions and then report the information they collect. Surveys encourage learners to move around the classroom, interact with multiple partners, and practice repeated question-and-answer patterns. These activities help improve fluency, confidence, and the ability to communicate with different people in a natural classroom environment. In addition, storytelling and picture-based speaking tasks are excellent for developing imagination and oral expression. Students may describe pictures, narrate a sequence of events, retell stories, or create their own stories based on visual prompts. These activities improve vocabulary, sentence organization, coherence, and creativity. They also help learners practice extended speech rather than only short responses.

### **CONCLUSION**

The effectiveness of interactive methods in teaching speaking lies in the fact that they create a communicative and supportive classroom atmosphere. Students are not only practicing grammar or memorized sentences; they are using language for real purposes such as sharing ideas, solving tasks, and interacting socially. Interactive speaking activities also reduce fear and hesitation because learners become active participants rather than passive listeners. As a result, they gradually develop greater fluency, clearer pronunciation, better sentence formation, and stronger confidence in speaking English. In conclusion, interactive methods for teaching speaking skills are essential in the English classroom because they encourage active participation, meaningful communication, and continuous oral practice. Through pair work, group discussions, role-plays, dialogues, information-gap tasks, problem-solving activities, interviews, and storytelling, learners can improve their speaking ability in a natural and motivating way. These methods not only help students speak more accurately and fluently but also prepare them for real-life communication, where speaking is a key component of successful language use.

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