

# 7 Tips to Improve Your Speaking Skills in English

(B-Level, Intermediate)

This is a handout for [an intermediate speaking skills lesson](#).

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## A Very Brief Summary

**Tip 1. Check your mindset.** A positive attitude goes a long way in accomplishing anything you do.

**Tip 2. Check your attitude.** Have a positive attitude and a sense of humor about learning new skills.

**Tip 3. Focus on communication.** There is a time to learn the language and a time to use what you have learned. When speaking, focus on communicating your ideas.

**Tip 4. Fluency is not about speed.** Speak at a pace that is comfortable for you.

**Tip 5. Use discourse markers.** Native and fluent speakers use discourse markers to pace themselves as they speak. (Be careful not to over use them, though.)

**Tip 6. “Speak around” vocabulary you do not know or have forgotten.** Use words you do know or remember instead of getting stuck on a word or expression.

**Tip 7. Practice speaking in different situations.** Speaking in a new situation can be uncomfortable, so practice in as many situations as possible.



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## Reflection

1. Which of the above tips do you believe are the most helpful? Why?
2. Which of the above tips do you believe may not be very helpful? Why not?
3. In addition to the above tips, what else do you find helpful to improve your speaking skills?
4. What is your attitude toward learning in general?
5. What is your attitude toward learning English?
6. How do you feel when you make mistakes while speaking?
7. Does it bother you when others make mistakes while speaking English? Why?
8. According to Franco, why is it important to focus on communication rather than on making mistakes or speaking “perfect English?”
9. In your experience, do English-language learners judge each other for how well they can speak English? If so, why do you think they do that?

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