

Module: Oral Expression

Level: First year, groups: 01,02,03,04,05&06

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The four skills of Language

When we say that someone speaks a language fluently, we usually mean that they have a high level in all four skills.

What are the four skills of language?

When we learn a language, there are four skills that we need for complete communication. When we learn our native language, we usually learn to **listen** first, then to **speak**, then to **read**, and finally to **write**. These are called the four "language skills":

1) Listening:

Is the first language skill we acquire in our native language. It is a receptive skill, or a passive skill, it requires us to use our ears and our brains to comprehend language.

2) Speaking:

It is the second language skill we acquire in our native language. It is what is known as productive skill, or active skill. It requires us to use our verbal tract and our brain to correctly produce language through sound.

3) Reading:

It is the third language skill we may acquire in our native language. As with listening. It is receptive or passive skill; it requires us to use our eyes and our brains to comprehend the written equivalent of spoken language.

4) Writing:

It is the four language skill we may acquire in our native language. As with speaking, it is a productive or active skill. It requires us to use our hands and our brains to produce the written symbols that represent our spoken language.

How to improve your English

1. Listen to English radio or podcasts.

One of the best ways to improve your English listening comprehension is to download English-language podcasts or radio apps on your phone or MP3 player.

2. Watch English movies and TV shows.

Another fun way to improve your listening comprehension is to watch English movies and TV shows.

- **Step 1:** Watch an English movie
- **Step 2:** Make an honest list of all the words that you thought were pronounced in a different way.
- **Step 3:** By the end of the movie, if your list is small, your pronunciation is not so bad. However, if your list is long, you need to work on pronouncing those words.
- **Step 4:** If you are not sure about the pronunciation, use the help of Internet tools or download a dictionary app on your phone to help with correct yourself.

3. Read an English book, newspaper or magazine.

Reading is an essential part of learning a new language, so don't forget to practice!

4. Keep a diary in English.

Aside from reading and listening comprehension, you should also spend some time working on your written English.

5. Stay motivated.

When learning any new language, it is important to stay motivated and never give up on your goal of fluency.

6. Practice every day.

If you want to gain fluency quickly, you need to commit to practicing *every day*.

7. Train yourself to think in English.

One way to make the transition from being **very good** at English to being **fluent** is to train your brain to actually *think* in the English language.

8. Make friends with English speakers.

One of the greatest tests of a person's fluency in a second language is to put them in a room with a bunch of native speakers and see if they can follow and contribute to the conversation.