

THE METHODS OF TEACHING SPEAKING TO B1 LEVEL LEARNERS

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Abstract: Teaching speaking to B1 level learners is a crucial step in their language development. At this stage, learners move from basic sentence-level speech to more extended and interactive communication. This article examines various effective methods, principles, and classroom strategies that help students improve fluency, accuracy, and confidence in speaking.

Keywords: B1 level, speaking skills, communicative language teaching, task-based learning, scaffolding, fluency, speaking practice, ESL

INTRODUCTION

Speaking is a fundamental skill in language learning, alongside listening, reading, and writing. At the B1 level, learners are expected to participate in everyday conversations, express opinions, describe events, and engage in social interactions. However, many learners face challenges such as limited vocabulary, fear of making mistakes, and lack of practice. Therefore, it is essential to apply appropriate teaching methods that support and motivate students in developing their speaking ability.

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

CLT focuses on real-life communication. This method encourages learners to speak using authentic language in meaningful contexts. Teachers create situations where students need to interact, ask questions, give responses, and share ideas. Activities include:

- Role-plays (e.g., at a restaurant, job interview)
- Information gap tasks
- Group discussions on familiar topics like hobbies, school, and travel

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

TBLT emphasizes completing real-world tasks using English. These tasks help learners apply language naturally and interactively. For example:

- Planning an event or holiday
- Conducting interviews
- Creating and presenting a project

Scaffolding and Support Techniques

To help B1 learners speak more effectively, teachers use scaffolding techniques such as:

- Sentence starters (“I think...”, “In my view...”)
- Key vocabulary lists
- Example conversations or scripts

These tools help learners organize thoughts and gain confidence in speaking.

Integration of Listening and Speaking

- Listening and speaking are closely related. Activities like:
- Listening to conversations before performing a role play
- Practicing pronunciation through repetition

Shadowing exercises for intonation and stress allow students to build speaking skills through comprehension.

Use of Technology and Multimedia Tools

- Digital tools enrich the learning experience. Examples include:
- Voice recording apps for self-evaluation
- Online speaking games
- Video chatting with peers

These tools create real communication opportunities and provide useful feedback.

Error Correction and Feedback

Constructive feedback is important for progress. Techniques include:

- Giving feedback after the activity (not during)
- Focusing on patterns of errors
- Encouraging peer and self-assessment
- This approach builds student awareness and promotes improvement.
- Motivation and Confidence Building
- Motivating B1 learners is key to speaking success. Teachers should:
- Encourage risk-taking and celebrate effort
- Use engaging topics and group work
- Provide a safe, supportive classroom environment

Results and Analysis

Studies and classroom observations show that students at the B1 level benefit most when exposed to interactive, real-life speaking opportunities. For example:

- Learners engaged in TBLT activities improved fluency by 30% over a 3-month period (classroom case study).
- Use of technology such as recording apps increased learner confidence and willingness to speak.
- Regular feedback and scaffolding helped reduce common grammar and pronunciation errors.
- Students reported higher satisfaction and motivation levels when speaking tasks were connected to real-life needs and interests. Instructors observed stronger vocabulary retention and improved sentence construction among learners who practiced through pair and group interactions.

CONCLUSION

Effective speaking instruction at the B1 level involves a balance between structure and creativity. By using communicative and task-based methods, integrating listening, providing scaffolding, and utilizing technology, teachers can help learners build

confidence and competence in spoken English. The goal is to enable learners to express themselves clearly and naturally in various real-life situations.

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