



## DEVELOPING LISTENING AND SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES IN PRIMARY ENGLISH LESSONS

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**Annotation:** This article discusses the importance of interactive classroom activities in improving primary students' listening and speaking skills in English. It examines how games, pair work, role plays, and multimedia tools enhance communication, motivation, and confidence among young learners. The paper highlights the teacher's role in organizing meaningful interaction and provides examples of effective classroom techniques for developing oral skills.

**Keywords:** interactive learning, speaking, listening, communication, motivation, primary education

The development of listening and speaking skills is fundamental in English language teaching, especially at the primary level. Young learners acquire language best through active engagement and real communication rather than through rote memorization or grammar drills. Interactive classroom activities help create a dynamic learning environment where students use English for authentic purposes, thereby improving their comprehension and fluency.

In traditional classrooms, students often listen passively or repeat after the teacher without meaningful interaction. However, communicative language teaching (CLT) emphasizes student-centered learning, where interaction and participation form the core of the process. Therefore, teachers need to design lessons that encourage students to speak, listen, and respond to one another using English naturally.

Interactive activities are effective tools for developing both receptive (listening) and productive (speaking) skills. They provide learners with opportunities to use English in realistic contexts, helping them to become confident communicators. These activities may include pair work, group discussions, storytelling, games, songs, and role plays.

Listening is the foundation of oral communication. It requires not only hearing words but also understanding meaning, intonation, and context. Interactive listening tasks, such as "Listen and Draw," "Find Someone Who," or "Information Gap" activities, make the process enjoyable and purposeful.





For example, in an “Information Gap” exercise, students receive different pieces of information and must communicate to complete the task. One student might have a picture of a park, while another has missing details. They ask and answer questions like “*Is there a swing in your park?*” or “*How many trees do you have?*”. Through this process, learners actively listen and respond in English, enhancing comprehension and vocabulary retention.

Songs and chants are also powerful listening tools. They improve pronunciation, rhythm, and stress patterns while helping students memorize language chunks easily. Moreover, authentic audio materials, such as short dialogues or children’s stories, can expose students to natural pronunciation and everyday expressions.

Speaking requires learners to express ideas clearly and confidently. Activities that stimulate conversation—like role plays, storytelling, and picture descriptions—encourage children to practice English in meaningful ways.

Role play is one of the most effective techniques. It allows students to act out real-life situations, such as ordering food in a restaurant, visiting the doctor, or greeting friends. These scenarios help them acquire functional language, improve fluency, and reduce fear of making mistakes.

Pair and group discussions encourage cooperation and critical thinking. For instance, when discussing favorite animals or hobbies, students learn to ask questions, listen actively, and respond appropriately. Such interaction helps them develop not only language skills but also social communication competence.

Teachers can also use visual aids and games to make speaking more engaging. Activities like “Describe and Guess” or “Show and Tell” enable children to use vocabulary creatively. The use of digital tools such as Kahoot or Flipgrid further motivates learners to record and share their spoken responses, promoting confidence and self-evaluation.

The teacher plays a crucial role in creating a supportive and interactive atmosphere. Children learn to speak when they feel safe and encouraged. Teachers should minimize correction during free speaking activities, focusing instead on meaning and communication. Later, gentle feedback can be provided to improve accuracy.

Pair work and group activities should be organized carefully, considering students’ levels and personalities. More confident learners can be paired with shy ones to ensure balanced participation. Moreover, using positive reinforcement—such as praise or rewards—helps maintain motivation and enthusiasm.





Classroom layout also influences interaction. Arranging desks in circles or small groups encourages eye contact and dialogue, unlike traditional rows that limit communication. Teachers should also use gestures, visual cues, and clear instructions to support comprehension during listening and speaking tasks.

Despite the benefits, there are some challenges in implementing interactive activities. Large class sizes, limited time, or insufficient resources can restrict practice opportunities. In such cases, teachers can adapt activities to small groups or use simple materials like flashcards, drawings, or real objects (realia).

Another challenge is students' fear of speaking or making mistakes. Teachers must build confidence by emphasizing fluency over perfection and by celebrating small successes. Gradual exposure to speaking tasks, starting with repetition and moving to free expression, helps reduce anxiety and fosters self-assurance.

Interactive classroom activities are key to developing young learners' listening and speaking skills in English. They make learning lively, communicative, and effective by involving students as active participants. Activities such as role plays, games, songs, and pair work not only enhance language proficiency but also build confidence, motivation, and cooperation.

Teachers must plan lessons that balance structure and creativity, providing clear goals and supportive feedback. When properly applied, interactive methods help transform the classroom into a space where English is not only learned but truly lived and experienced.

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