

Technology and Language Skills (Speaking)

Why speaking and listening, are the most important language skills ?

Because people learn a language in order to communicate

all learning requires language .

Developing speaking and listening skills

speaking and listening have been considered as two separate skills. But nowadays they are closely related .

Issues in developing speaking skills

Students are not confident

Learners sometimes have difficulty in finding something to say.

Tasks do not provoke discussion.

How can technology be used to enhance fluency?

By computer-mediated communication (CMC)

Five areas in which learners might benefit

First, the use of synchronous discussion enhances language skills and improves oral proficiency.

Second, CMC reduces students' anxiety levels and motivates learners.

Third, students are more willing to participate because the tasks are more challenging

Fourth, CMC provides enhanced input

Finally, students use significantly more repair moves, especially pronunciation .

How to make a speaking avatar ?

- 1.Register an account on www.voki.com
- 2.Choose a character and customize it by changing the look, clothing and accessories.
- 3.Add your own voice via phone, microphone or text to speech or by uploading a file.
- 4.Publish it by emailing it to a friend or getting a code to take your Void avatar anywhere.

four-stage model extending fluency tasks to focus on accuracy:

- (1) pre-speaking: support in vocabulary and knowledge.
- (2) while-speaking: mainly developing learners' fluency.
- (3) post-speaking: learners' awareness of the accurate use of the language is enhanced .
- (4) further practice: by means of task repetition, learners can develop fluent and accurate speech.

conditions have been reported to be influential in using CMC

- Condition 1: Teachers need to know how the technological tools
- Condition 2: Everyone involved must have a good Internet connection.
- Condition 3: Developing communication must be the pedagogical purpose
- Condition 4: Students must have a certain level of proficiency that is required for the task.
- Condition 5: The task itself must be collaborative and appropriate to students' interests and cognitive level
- Condition 6: Ground rules must be established, including the role of LI. It should be used to assist in, but not complete, the task.