

USE OF UNCONVENTIONAL METHODS IN PRACTICING ENGLISH SPEECH

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Анотація.

У статті розглядаються нестандартні методи вдосконалення навичок усного мовлення англійською мовою. Автори акцентують увагу на важливості активного мовлення в процесі засвоєння мови, підкріплюючи свою точку зору науковими дослідженнями. Запропоновано сучасні підходи до практики мовлення, зокрема використання соціальних мереж, месенджерів та відеоігор, які сприяють розвитку навичок комунікації в реальному часі. Обговорюються переваги ігрового навчання, що сприяє не лише підвищенню рівня володіння мовою, а й розвитку професійної термінології в певних галузях. Висновки підкреслюють значення усного мовлення як ключового інструменту професійного зростання та ефективної комунікації.

Ключові слова: усне мовлення, нестандартні методи, вивчення англійської мови, комунікація, відеоігри, соціальні мережі

Abstract

The article explores unconventional methods for improving English-speaking skills. The authors emphasize the importance of active speech production in language acquisition, supporting their argument with scientific research. Modern approaches to speech practice are proposed, including the use of social networks, messengers, and video games, which facilitate real-time communication skills development. The benefits of game-based learning are discussed, highlighting its role not only in language proficiency enhancement but also in acquiring professional terminology in specific fields. The conclusions underline the significance of spoken language as a key tool for professional growth and effective communication.

Keywords: speech, unconventional methods, English learning, communication, video games, social networks.

Introduction

In today's world, a great majority of professions require professionals to have not just a high level of proficiency but also high-level communication and management skills. In this scenario, being able to communicate one's ideas in an effective manner is crucial in fostering teamwork, enhancing the performance of others, and developing a positive personal reputation.

As the world continues to develop, individuals from all over the world engage in international projects, working with colleagues from other nations. In most cases, people from various cultures and ethnic backgrounds adapt and exchange ideas with the hope of achieving a common objective. Moreover, understanding professional slang improves communication among colleagues, promotes information sharing, and increases career opportunities. One of the fundamental principles of professional communication for any specialist is mastery of language – more precisely, in oral communication.

Research results

There are many ways that a student can practice their speech without needing to search for numerous books from libraries across the globe. Yet, this aspect of the speech practicing process is usually neglected in favor of written practice or reading books, a decision that is a serious error. In 1985, Merrill Swain, a Canadian researcher, conducted research on Second Language Acquisition (SLA), stating that exposure to language input – listening and reading – is not sufficient for effective language acquisition. She contended that learners must also produce language – speak or write – to maximize the development of their linguistic abilities.

This theory is reinforced by the unfortunate reality that the majority of contemporary schools only specialize in reading and listening skills, administering tests and exams that are not conducive to the advancement of logical thinking or the expression of oneself.

Years later, in 2020, another study conducted by João R. Correia of the University of Lisbon showed that language learning is most effective when students are exposed to actual conversations. This interaction

facilitates comprehension, correction, and enables individuals to adapt to actual speech patterns—an important ability in an era filled with short videos and artificially generated content.

But how can one practice active communication without ever being able to meet a native English speaker or travel abroad, for that matter? To answer this question, we have to resort to the latest technology humanity has developed over the past few decades. For instance, messengers like Facebook or Twitter (X) are a great way for young people to meet fellow youngsters, share their thoughts, and discuss different topics of their liking. For those who are more interested in vocal person-to-person conversations, there are Discord, Guilded, WhatsApp, and many more.

Many teenagers find it boring – or even difficult – to practice speaking English intentionally every day, largely due to short attention spans. This is especially true for Gen Z and Gen Alpha. The solution? Video games. Contrary to what some may think, games are far more than just a way to pass time. Most modern titles include built-in voiceovers for dialogue, objectives, and tutorials. As a result, players, whether consciously or not, immerse themselves in a cinematic experience where professional voice actors guide them through the story. This not only entertains but also helps with pronunciation and comprehension. Moreover, this way of “learning” is not boring or repetitive, as each and every individual is free to choose the game of their liking, thus providing their brain with a much-needed dose of dopamine, which, in return, makes memory receptors much more susceptible to learning.

Another way the aforementioned “study through playing games” can be achieved is by actively communicating in an online voice chat, which many popular games have to offer. By using the in-game voice chat, players not only get to train their thought-to-speech transition but also can indirectly learn new words, phrases, and ways to use them properly. Depending on the genre of the game, one can develop their vocabulary with language material of all sorts. A great example of such learning and communication is city-building simulators, which offer a vast number of professional terms and, coupled with the ability to engage in team-based construction through voice chat, make up a great learning curve for beginner engineers.

Conclusion

Speech is one of the most important aspects of any professional. It increases the quality of teamwork, allows the exchange of ideas, and provides the ability to freely express thoughts. It can be practiced through a variety of ways, such as person-to-person conversations, listening to native English speakers, or playing games with friends. People with higher levels of speech proficiency are usually more successful in terms of job applications, interviews, and self-expression.

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