

Ways to Equip LSRW Skills

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Abstract

Communication plays a major role in each individual's professional life in this modern era. One has to communicate effectively in order to be successful in any field. For this reason, an individual is in dire need to learn the English language, to become employable. It is in the hands of language teachers to show the way to the individual to familiarize himself /herself with the language. For this purpose, LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) skills have to be taught effectively. The skills will definitely help the individual to get a job and create a better understanding at the workplace. LSRW skills have not been taught properly for the learner during their twelve years of study in most of the Indian educational schools. And at the same time, regional medium students consider English as a subject, not as an language. More importantly, a student learns the foreign language or second language by giving importance only to Reading and Writing. Teachers should provide extensive time to practice all the four skills. The students need a variety of experiences in Listening, Speaking, Writing and Reading. The activities like Videos, Audios, Oral Presentation, Extempore speech, Self-Introduction, Reading Comprehension, Picture reading, Newspaper Reading, Movie clips, free writing, grammar worksheets, games, role play, substitution drills, speed reading, storytelling, picture writing etc., will definitely help the learners to be an effective communicator. Most importantly, these four skills give confidence to the learners and help them to get employed.

Keywords: English language, LSRW Skills, learner activities, language learners, communication skills

Introduction

English language plays a major role in Indian educational system. To be a successful one in this technological world, an individual should be an effective Communicator. Schools and colleges play dominant role in imparting all the skills including language skills. In order to acquire good language acquisition skill, an individual has to focus LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) skills. LSRW skills can be acquired by practicing. A student or an individual needs a variety of experiences in Listening, Speaking, Writing and Reading. The activities like Videos, Audios, Oral Presentation, Extempore speech, Self-Introduction, Reading Comprehension, Picture reading, Newspaper Reading, Movie clips, free writing , grammar worksheets, games, role play, substitution drills, speed reading, storytelling, picture writing etc., will definitely help the learners to be an effective communicator.

Ways to Equip LSRW skills

Videos

As English teachers, we can show videos to the students which are available on the internet and also from DVD. From these visuals, students can easily understand the concepts. We can help the students in Pronunciation and rising/falling intonation. We can also guide the students to rewrite the sentence which he/she has seen in the video. Indirectly we help the students to acquire the knowledge of listening, speaking and writing.

Audios

A learner learns any language through listening. So, it is very essential to play the audio tapes to the students. Then only he/she can repeat the sentence structures, words and pronunciation. The Audios from EFLU(English Foreign Language University) and websites like www.agendaweb.com will definitely help the students in listening. If listening is acquired as a second language speaker, speaking can become easy for the students.

Oral Presentation

A language teacher has to help the students acquire vocabulary. He/she can write many number of words on the board and make the students find out the meaning and related words. The teacher can give simple topics to the students as oral presentation based on the vocabulary lists. This type of oral presentation makes the students to be more comfortable and will definitely help them to speak on the topic for few minutes. This indirectly makes the students get rid of his/her stage fear and gain confidence in speaking skills.

Reading Comprehension

Worksheets on reading comprehension have to be given to the students. A teacher has to help them by explaining inductive reading, pre-reading, post-reading and Close reading. After this, students get a clear picture of reading comprehension. ‘Comprehend’ means ‘understanding’. Multiple Choice questions, True or False, Fill ups and open-ended questions will definitely help the students’ creative thinking and critical thinking.

Newspaper Reading

In a language learning class, reading newspaper will play a major role in Students learning LSRW skills. A student can be invited to read a favourite passage and others are asked to listen to the passage. After reading the passage, a language teacher can teach the pronunciation, sentence structure and verb pattern. Any students from the class are asked to summarize the passage in five sentences of their own. After that, the students are asked to find out 5 to 10 unknown words daily for meaning and asked to construct sentences on their own. This practice unconsciously helps the students to listen, write and speak.

Games

In this technological world, students are keen and interested in playing games. Games might give satisfaction for them. In order to develop LSRW skills, a language teacher can initiate the students to play games. Through games, Grammar, Basic concepts of English and sentence structure can be taught.

Role Play

A student can be given different roles like doctor-patient, teacher-student, placement officer-students. The dialogues will definitely help the students to frame questions and answers. The role play makes the students to think as a character and talk according to the manner of the character.

Substitution drills, speed reading, storytelling and picture writing help the students to understand the English language. These activities make the students to practice listening, speaking, reading and writing. These activities indirectly help the students to talk, read and write.

Conclusion

A language teacher has the ability to make the students to speak and write. As a teacher, we have to focus on listening and speaking. If it is followed up properly, other skills can be encouraged to develop with some more sessions of reading and writing exercises.

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