



Master Speaking and Listening Skills Today

KS2 ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION

SOCIAL SKILLS

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

Why Speaking and Listening Matter

Speaking and listening are superpowers that help you make friends, learn new things, and share your ideas. Unlike **reading and writing**, which you can do alone, speaking and listening happen between people. When you get better at both, you become someone people want to talk to.

How to Become a Better Listener

Listening is harder than it sounds. Most people think about what they want to say next instead of actually hearing what someone else is saying. To listen properly, make **eye contact** (look at the person's eyes), nod to show you understand, and ask **follow-up questions** like "What happened next?" or "How did that make you feel?"

Think of it like playing catch: if you're thinking about your throw while the other person is pitching, you'll miss the ball. Real listening means catching the ball first, then thinking about your reply.

Try the "**active listening**" technique: after someone speaks, repeat back what they said in your own words. This shows them you were paying attention and haven't missed anything important.

How to Become a Better Speaker

Good speaking starts with **planning**. Before you say something important, think about what you want to communicate and why it matters. Speak clearly and not too fast—give people time to understand you. Use **pauses** to let your ideas sink in.

Think of it like a recipe: if you rush through all the steps super quickly, your listener won't be able to follow along and the result will be messy.

Don't worry about being perfect. Even famous speakers feel nervous! The more you practise speaking in front of others—in class, at home, or with friends—the more

comfortable you'll become. Your **tone of voice** and **body language** matter too. Smile, stand up straight, and speak with confidence.

Practise Every Day

The secret is **practice**. Join a **debate club** or **speech group** at school. Ask questions in class. Have real conversations with family and friends. Record yourself speaking and listen back—you might hear things you want to improve. Remember: every great speaker started as a beginner who was nervous too!