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LANGUAGE SKILLS

The mother tongue, which is acquired primarily by a child when his language cells are empty, is his first language (L1), and the language, which is acquired / learnt in addition to the L1 is second language (L2). The phrase 'foreign language' is used to denote a language that is learnt through instruction where it is not used. 'Second language', on the other hand, is one that becomes another tool of communication along with the first language. It is typically acquired in a social environment in which it is actually spoken.

It is quite interesting to note that India, a multilingual nation, is the third largest English-speaking country after the US and UK. We still believe the words of the University Education Commission headed by S. Radhakrishnan in 1950-51 which reported: "English should be the most useful 'library' language in higher education and our most significant window on the world."

Like any other language English Language is also evaluated in terms of the 'four skills': LSRW (listening, speaking, reading, and writing.) Listening and Speaking Skills are known as ORACY and the Reading and Writing are known as LITERACY; both oracy and literacy form LINGUACY.

Among these four skills, listening and reading are used as the channels of receiving information. Thus, these two skills are called as **receptive skills**.

The remaining two skills, speaking and writing, are used as channels of sending information. Thus, these two skills are labeled as **productive skills**.

Listening Skill: A method of understanding the spoken language

God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we can hear twice as much as we say.

Listening is a precondition to other skills of language. The activity of listening is not an act of just recording the speaker's statements and reciting them as a copycat or as an imitator. It is a method of understanding the spoken language. Listening involves:

- ❖ Obtaining the methodical sounds of the language,
- ❖ Managing and constructing sounds into words,
- ❖ Giving meaning to the words and getting meaning from the words received,
- ❖ Capacity to interpret and grasp the speaker's statements, etc.

SPEAKING SKILL: We all know the importance of spoken English in our country. Whether we can read English or not, we can write or not but we try our level best to learn how to speak English. In a way spoken English has become a status symbol and a benchmark to show that you belong to educated class.

Reading Skill

Reading is considered as an understanding of written signs and codes, which consist of recognition and comprehension skills. While reading, a reader interacts with a text, decodes it, and constructs meaning in the process.

Reading is a visual process. It is an experimental process; because, without experience the mind will be unable to invest meaning to the symbols that we see. A reader is one who

· has purpose
· can concentrate
· comprehends what he reads
· remembers what he reads
· has a good vocabulary, and
· can read rapidly, but with rate depending on the material.

Five Stages of Learning Reading

- ❖ At the first stage, the learner learns to read the alphabetic orders ABC upto XYZ.
- ❖ Then he learns to read its combinations (like h.e, s.h.e).
- ❖ In the third stage, the learner learns to read the words and its combinations with other words in a sentence and understand its meaning.
- ❖ In the fourth stage he extent his reading ability at the sentence level.
- ❖ In the fifth stage, he begins to comprehend the discourses. Only at this stage, he uses his both linguistic and socio linguistic knowledge for complete understanding of the text.

❖ Types of Reading

- ❖ Yoakem (1955) has classified reading according to the form, purpose and the psychological process involved. Reading may be of many types:

❖ Oral and silent reading: On the basis of 'form', reading is categorized as silent and oral reading. The reader either reads to himself or to others
❖ Informational reading: reading to provide information or to get information
❖ Recreational reading: reading for entertainment and time pass.
❖ Observational: where the reader makes note of what the writer intends to write like reading in the classroom
❖ Assimilative: where the reader tries to understand fully and remember what he reads. like reading for your exams
❖ Reflective : where the reader reads with a critical attitude.
❖
❖ Creative readings: where the reader tries to discover ideas so that he can use them subsequently in oral written expression.

Reading can help build vocabulary that helps listening comprehension at the later stages, particularly.

To test the reading comprehension of a student following activities can be adopted

- ❖ selection of appropriate answers from the given answers,
- ❖ deciding the statements given are true or false,
- ❖ getting the answers from the text.

Reading involves writing, if not by you then by someone else. It can develop independently of listening and speaking skills, but often develops along with them.

- ❖ Practice of differentiating the lexical and grammatical items, recognition of unfamiliar words and understanding of their literal and contextual meanings with the help of the teacher or dictionary will enhance the reading comprehensibility.
- ❖ Practice of labeling parts of speech and recognizing the word boundaries and tense markers will develop the linguistic competence of the students. Further, that will be helpful for enhancing the understanding ability of texts.
- ❖ The learner can take part in the reading games. That is, finding phrasal verbs, differentiating the mono, di and tri syllable words, differentiating the nouns like common, abstract, animate, inanimate, etc. and the verbs like transitive and intransitive in sentence or discourse.
- ❖ In order to make reading an interesting challenge as opposed to a tedious chore, it is important that learners do not work hard over every word, whether they are skimming the text for general meaning or scanning it to pick out specific information.

Writing Skill

Writing is the process of transporting one's thought through written symbols. The writing skill includes:

- ❖ Capability to shape the letters,
- ❖ Skill to convert the ideas using the written symbols,
- ❖ Talent to write without grammatical errors,
- ❖ Ability to present and organize in a readable fashion, etc.

Listening=45 percent

Speaking=30 percent

Reading =16 percent

Writing= 9 percent

Quiz of the Day

1. A preposition is always followed by which part of speech?

Answer=a noun.(ie noun, proper noun, pronoun, noun group, gerund).

2. What do we call the dot over the letter "i" and the letter "j"?

Answer=It is called a "superscript dot".

3. Which is the longest English word without a true vowel (a, e, i, o or u)

Answer= It is "rhythm".

4. How many words we can find in 7-letter word "therein" without rearranging any of its letters?

Answer=: 10: the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.

5. Which is the only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter

Answer=It is "uncopyrightable".

Word of the day =CANOROUS --Pleasant

Sounding : MELODIOUSसुरीलाश्रुतिमधुर kə'nɔ:rəs

It derives from the Latin verb *canere* ("to sing"), a root it shares with a number of words that evoke what is sweet to the ear.

Canorously==adverb

Synonym==HARMONIOUS

Antonym= DISHARMONIOUS ,INHARMONIOUS

In *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821), the essayist Thomas de Quincey describes a manservant who, after accidentally letting a loaded trunk fall down a flight of stairs, "sang out a long, loud, and canorous peal of laughter." "Canorous" typically describes things, such as church choirs or birds in the spring, that are a pleasure to listen to.