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## Ways To Equip Lsrw Skills

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### **Abstract**

*It is axiomatic that in the effective use of any language, the four basic communication skills such as listening, reading, speaking and writing play a vital role. In today's competitive world, the LSRW skills hold the key to success and play an indispensable role in students' lives to help withstand the present scenario of shapeup or ship out world. Getting to grips with all four basic skills is vital while English is learnt as a second language. It can be achieved by adopting various techniques like play- way method, activity based learning and what not. This paper not only suggests some ways and means of acquiring these prerequisite skills to master the language but also brings out some classroom activities which would help the students to enhance their LSRW skills.*

**Keywords:** Acquisition, Practice, Performance, Unlearning

English Language's new avatar as a global language has made it the apple of new generation's eye. It has even attained the status of a commodity with a multitude of people involve themselves in the process of teaching and learning the language. With all the glamour and popularity enjoyed by the English language teaching & learning process, it does not yield the desired result that it should have delivered. The reasons vary from inappropriate methodologies and materials to incompetent teachers, unconfident students and unsuitable environment. In India where the medium of higher education mostly remains in the medium of English, Students aspirations to secure a plump job and lead a prosperous life is hindered with their incompetency in English Communication. Moreover, they have been practised to approach English as a subject with the traditional exam patterns that tests the students' language proficiency by their knowledge of English like grammatical rules and their rote learning of essays, letters and poems. It spoils their effort to approach language as a skill and get mastery over the same by practicing using it. My paper aims to suggest ways to develop the Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (LSRW) skills using both traditional and modern methods from text book to digital softwares.

The process of learning a language in one's life through listening starts in mother's womb itself. The baby learns its mother tongue by listening to its mother's uttering of doting and indulging words in enjoyment of carrying a child in her. Then, once it was born, starts understanding new words from relatives and tries to imitate in its own gurgling way. Its unselfconscious uttering in a carefree necessity-driven communication launches it in the process of language acquisition. The cognitive skill of the child gets sharpened during its formative years with its unconscious effort to learn, understand, think, share and execute .This is reflected in the child's use of language with its nuances and variety. In contrary to this, our students learn English as a second language without any exposure to it in their formative years as a medium of communication. It ends in their developing a sense of non-attachment towards English language. Without a sense of a belonging, they find it hard to learn the language in true spirit. Albeit listening to English sounds through rhymes motivates them to repeat the songs but not take them to learn it in context to use them. In their intermediate years, they find the teachers speaking bilingually and prompting the students' to memorize the essays and poems and find some patterns in grammar to get through the exams. It results in their losing the vital period to acquire the exposure to listening. Even in English medium schools Students are directed to score high marks rather than developing adequate knowledge and skills.

The objective of developing students' listening skill is fulfilled only when the following strategies are put in to practise.

- Listening for general content
- Listening to fill in information
- Intensive listening
- Listening for specific information

Similarly, some people who aspire to speak in a language which is foreign to their mother tongue may not be good speakers but are better listeners. The listening skill, regarded as one of the wonders of the four that forms the base for other skills to build upon. Many may not be aware of that and so need a pat on our part to tap into. Following the afore-mentioned practices, will give the necessary input needed to deliver an output in the mode of speaking. This is the often used mode of communication in workplaces. So from childhood onwards students should get chance to express themselves in English. Catching them in their elementary education period will boost their confidence in their advanced stages of oral communication. The following activities if effectively done will bring in magical wonders in their delivery of speech.

- Verbal practice
- Speaking about objects/situations/people
- Individual/Group activities
- Impromptu, Debate, GD, Public speaking, Role play, etc.
- Just a Minute (JAM) Sessions.

The most important skill that defines an educated person is one's ability to read and write. To some extent, Reading proficiency is achieved by the students .But the expectations of the industries are more than what our students possess now. Our students are encouraged to memorize rather than understand and express on their own. This practice in school days blocks students from reading for meaning and reading between the lines. The following practices will equip them with the different reading skills.

- Skimming the text
- Reading and comprehending the text
- Understanding the drift of an argument
- Identifying the head sentence
- Inferring lexical (Use of Dictionary/Glossary/ Listing Jargons) and contextual meaning
- Recognizing unity of sentences and paragraphs

The last but the most testing skill among the other three skills is Writing skill. It requires a sound knowledge in sentence structure, a good stock of vocabulary and their natural language expressions. Our students are lagging far behind in developing this skill. The compositions works done by our students are not yielding any result of expressing themselves in black and white. So we should think

of a innovative outcome based methods to stop this negative trend. I believe the following methods will enable our students to get a hang of the writing skill.

- Looking up words in chunks & writing sentences
- Strategies of creative and critical writing
- Use of appropriate and simple vocabulary
- Paragraph, essay and précis writing
- Unity and Order
- Narration / description
- Note Making
- Formal and informal letter writing
- Editing a passage

The above mentioned practices are to be applied with utmost sincerity from both sides; the teacher and the learner.

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