

IMPROVING LISTENING AND SPEAKING VIA COMPETENT BASED APPROACH BY USING DIFFERENT METHODS

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Abstract. *The development of listening and speaking skills is central to effective communication and academic success in language learning. Traditional teaching approaches often emphasize memorization and theoretical knowledge, overlooking the real-world competencies learners must acquire. A competency-based approach (CBA) shifts the focus toward measurable skills, performance outcomes, and practical application. This article explores how listening and speaking abilities can be improved through competency-based instruction supported by diverse methods such as task-based learning, communicative language teaching, technology-integrated instruction, collaborative learning, and performance-based assessments. The article highlights the significance of creating learner-centered environments where skills are practiced through authentic tasks.*

Keywords: *Competency-based approach; listening skills; speaking skills; communicative language teaching; task-based learning; language competence; performance assessment.*

INTRODUCTION.

Listening and speaking form the foundation of all language communication. In today's interconnected world, learners require strong oral skills not only to succeed academically but also to interact confidently in personal, professional, and multicultural contexts. Despite this significance, many language classrooms still rely heavily on traditional teacher-centered approaches that prioritize grammar, vocabulary lists, and written skills over oral performance. As a result, learners often struggle to communicate effectively even after years of instruction.

To address these gaps, the competency-based approach (CBA) has gained attention as an effective framework for improving language skills. Unlike traditional systems, which focus on the completion of textbooks or content units, CBA emphasizes what learners can actually do with the language in real situations. Competencies include observable and measurable abilities such as understanding spoken instructions, participating in discussions, making presentations, and responding appropriately in conversations.

The purpose of this article is to examine how listening and speaking can be enhanced through competency-based instruction. It discusses the importance of oral communication in language learning, describes key features of CBA, and presents various methods and strategies that support competency development. By integrating these approaches, teachers can design learning experiences that not only build linguistic knowledge but also develop students' confidence and fluency in real-life communication.

1. Understanding Competency-Based Language Teaching. Competency-Based Language Teaching (CBLT) is a learner-centered, outcomes-oriented approach that focuses on mastery of specific skills. In the context of oral communication, these competencies may include:

- Understanding spoken directions
- Identifying main ideas and details in audio texts

- Engaging in conversations with appropriate fluency
- Expressing opinions clearly
- Making oral presentations

CBA ensures that learning objectives are measurable and aligned with real-world needs. Instead of simply teaching “listening passages” or “dialogues,” teachers design tasks that replicate authentic communication situations such as workplace interactions, academic discussions, or social conversations.

Methods for Enhancing Listening Through Competency-Based Approach

And Task-Based Listening Activities. Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) supports CBA by requiring learners to complete meaningful tasks using the target language. Listening tasks may include:

- Watching short videos and identifying key messages
- Listening to announcements and extracting important information
- Following spoken instructions to complete a map or chart
- Listening to interviews and summarizing opinions

These tasks emphasize comprehension for practical purposes rather than passive listening. Learners are evaluated on their ability to perform the task, aligning directly with competency development. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) encourages interactive listening, where learners listen not only to understand but also to respond. Teachers can use: Information-gap activities (one learner has information the other needs), Role-plays involving customer-service scenarios, meetings, or interviews, Group discussions based on audio stimuli. Such activities improve active listening, note-taking, inference, and prediction skills. Learners become more comfortable processing information in real time, which is essential for authentic communication.

Technology use aligns with CBA by providing real-world listening experiences and allowing teachers to measure progress through digital assessments. CBA emphasizes fluency, clarity, accuracy, and appropriateness. Interactive speaking activities include:

- Pair and group discussions
- Debates on relevant topics
- Simulations of workplace or social situations
- Problem-solving tasks requiring negotiation and collaboration

These tasks encourage learners to speak spontaneously, develop confidence, and practice language functions such as requesting, persuading, agreeing, and disagreeing. Traditional oral exams often focus on memorized dialogues, which do not reflect real competence. In contrast, CBA uses authentic assessments such as: Presentations or speeches; Recorded speaking portfolios; Interview simulations; Group project discussions; Role-play assessments

Assessment criteria typically include coherence, pronunciation, vocabulary range, interaction skills, and non-verbal communication. This ensures that speaking abilities are measured holistically.

Conclusion

Listening and speaking skills are essential components of communicative competence in any language. A competency-based approach provides an effective framework for improving these skills because it focuses on practical, measurable outcomes rather than memorization of content. By using diverse methods such as task-based learning, communicative activities, technology integration, collaborative learning, and performance-based assessment, teachers can create dynamic learning environments that nurture real-life communication abilities. The integration of listening and speaking tasks encourages learners to understand, respond, and interact more naturally. As a result, students become more confident, fluent, and effective communicators. Competency-based instruction not only enhances language mastery but also prepares learners for academic success, workplace demands, and global communication challenges. Educators are encouraged to adopt CBA strategies to ensure that oral skills are developed in a meaningful and sustainable way.

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