



USING PROBLEM-SOLVING METHODS TO TEACH SPEAKING TO B1 LEVEL LEARNERS

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Abstract: This article explores the application of problem-solving methods as an effective strategy for enhancing speaking skills among B1 level English learners. It discusses how engaging students in real-life problem scenarios stimulates communication, critical thinking, and spontaneous language use. The author outlines several classroom techniques, such as role plays, debates, simulations, and collaborative tasks, which encourage learners to negotiate meaning and express ideas clearly. The article also emphasizes the importance of learner autonomy and interaction in promoting fluency and confidence. Through both theoretical insights and practical examples, the article demonstrates how problem-solving activities can foster a more dynamic and communicative learning environment for intermediate students.

Keywords: Problem-solving methods, debates, speaking activities, linguistic skills, self-assessment, practice speaking.



Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается применение методов решения проблем в качестве эффективной стратегии для улучшения навыков говорения среди изучающих английский язык на уровне B1. В ней обсуждается, как вовлечение студентов в реальные жизненные ситуации стимулирует коммуникацию, критическое мышление и спонтанное использование языка. Автор описывает несколько методов работы в классе, таких как ролевые игры, дебаты, симуляции и совместные задания, которые побуждают учащихся обсуждать смысл и четко выражать идеи. В статье также подчеркивается важность автономии и взаимодействия учащихся для содействия беглости и уверенности. С помощью теоретических идей и практических примеров в статье показано, как действия по решению проблем могут способствовать созданию более динамичной и коммуникативной среды обучения для учащихся среднего уровня.

Ключевые слова: Методы решения проблем, дебаты, речевая деятельность, языковые навыки, самооценка, практика говорения.

Introduction

Developing effective communication skills is essential in language education, especially for learners at level B1. At this stage, learners need to engage in simple conversations, express themselves and act confidently in everyday situations. However, traditional speaking practices often fall short in providing learners with the tools they need to communicate meaningfully and authentically.

This article explores an innovative integration of problem-solving techniques into speaking activities for learners at level B1. By presenting learners with real-life problems that require collaboration, negotiation and critical thinking, teachers can create an engaging



and dynamic learning environment. These techniques not only develop linguistic skills, but also develop key soft skills that are crucial in today's interconnected world.

By implementing problem-solving tasks, students are encouraged to express their ideas, discuss solutions and practice language in the text, making the learning experience both relevant and practical. This introduction lays the groundwork for a deeper exploration of the benefits, strategies and potential challenges associated with using problem-solving techniques in conversational language teaching, ultimately enabling B1 students to become more confident and competent communicators.

Main part

At the B1 level, learners are transitioning from basic to more independent language use. They should be able to handle familiar topics, express opinions, and engage in discussions. However, many learners struggle with fluency and confidence when speaking. Traditional methods often focus on rote memorization and grammar drills, which can hinder students' ability to communicate effectively. Problem-solving methods provide a more dynamic approach, encouraging learners to use language as a tool for collaboration and critical thinking.

Problem-solving methods involve presenting learners with real-life challenges that require them to work together to find solutions. These activities encourage critical thinking, creativity, and effective communication. In the context of language learning, problem-solving tasks can take various forms, including role-plays, group discussions, debates, and project-based learning. By engaging in these activities, learners practice speaking in a meaningful context, which enhances their linguistic skills and boosts their confidence.

To effectively incorporate problem-solving methods into speaking lessons for B1 learners, educators can employ several strategies:



- Design tasks based on real-life situations that learners might encounter, such as planning a trip, resolving a conflict, or organizing an event. This relevance increases engagement and motivation.
- Encourage collaborative learning by having students work in pairs or small groups. This fosters communication and allows learners to practice speaking in a supportive environment.
- Provide clear guidelines for the problem-solving process. For example, outline steps such as identifying the problem, brainstorming solutions, discussing options, and reaching a consensus.
- Assign specific roles within groups to ensure that all learners are actively participating and practicing their speaking skills.
- Incorporate peer feedback sessions where learners can reflect on each other's contributions and language use. This helps them develop critical listening skills and encourages self-assessment.

Incorporating problem-solving methods into speaking instruction for B1 level learners offers an innovative approach that enhances language acquisition through meaningful engagement. By presenting real-world challenges, educators can foster collaboration, critical thinking, and effective communication skills among their students. As learners navigate these tasks, they not only improve their speaking abilities but also develop essential life skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom. Embracing this dynamic teaching approach empowers B1 learners to become confident communicators ready to tackle the complexities of language in everyday situations.

Conclusion

Incorporating problem-solving techniques into the language instruction for B1 level learners is a transformative approach that significantly enhances the language learning experience. By engaging students in real-world problems, teachers create a dynamic and



interactive environment that fosters active participation and collaboration. These techniques not only improve students' speaking skills, but also develop critical thinking, creativity, and social communication.

By embracing problem-solving strategies in the classroom, teachers equip B1 learners with the tools they need to navigate real-life situations confidently. This holistic approach not only prepares them for future language use but also encourages lifelong learning and adaptability in an ever-changing world.

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