

How to Improve One's English Conversation Skills

To improve upon one's English conversation skills, I recommend the following Four-step formula. This formula may be adopted in any convenient sequence.

- ✓ Step 1: **Watching:** Change your TV viewing habits. Change it from your favorite vernacular channel (Gujarati, Tamil, Punjabi, Oriya, etc) – into a channel where English is used as a medium for communication. People watch TV programs as per their tastes. For example, some people like watching cookery shows. They should switch over to watching cookery shows in English language. Some others enjoy watching interviews of celebrities. They should switch over to watching celebrity interviews in English. Yet others enjoy watching Hindi movies. They should try watching English movies. And nowadays, there is a trend of dabbling in the stock market. If you are an avid stock market player, you may consider switching over to watching the rise and fall of your scrip in English.
- ✓ Step 2: **Listening:** Change your radio listening habits. Try to comprehend what a radio presenter is saying in English language.
- ✓ Step 3: **Talking:** Amongst your circle of friends, identify like-minded ones who share your passion for learning and conversing in English language. Without bothering about what others are thinking, and without paying attention to their snickering, you should carry on regardless with polishing your English conversation skills.
- ✓ Step 4: **Increase your word power:** My advice is to keep a small diary handy with you at all times, whenever you are engaged in any of the preceding steps. Nowadays, you have online dictionaries in your Smartphone too. Now, whenever you come across a new word, a new phrase, or a new turn of phrase, simply note it down and/or find out what it means in different contexts. Noting down will help you remember.

So this is the four-step formula: **watching**, **listening**, **talking**, and **increasing your word power**; all in English.

No doubt, you are going to face difficulties in implementing all or even any of these steps. But you carry on doggedly.

No doubt, you are going to make mistakes initially, but tell me who can master anything new without first making mistakes?

No doubt, you are going to feel frustrated in the first few attempts. You may feel like giving up. What is the use? But this is the time to overcome your frustrations and sense of despair.

Just keep your focus on the fruits you are going to get after you have begun mastering English language conversation.

- In your social circle, you will shine. You will acquire a new aura – a halo - because of your mastery over English language conversation. You will no longer be pitied or looked down upon by the others who already know this skill.
- When appearing in interviews, you will never be cowed down by an inferiority complex – when other contenders for the job can speak English fluently, you will step into the interview cabin with the knowledge that you can articulate your thoughts in English quite well.
- When working on a job, especially in multinational companies, your mastery over spoken English will automatically make your juniors, your colleagues, and your supervisors treat you with the respect which you deserve. You will no longer be dismissed off-handedly.

I can continue on and on. But hopefully you are getting the drift of what I am saying.

Keep practicing the four-step formula, and you will eventually win the game.

So, **practice, practice, and practice.** Make it your mantra!

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