

Learning to speak English

1 Read what the students say. Tick (✓) the student(s) that are like you.

I don't live in an English-speaking country, so the only time I can speak English is in class.

I'm quite shy and I can't stand talking in front of the class. I don't like talking with other students either because I don't always know what to say.

There are a lot of students in my English class. It's difficult to talk because there's always a lot of noise. My teacher can't always hear the mistakes I make.



2 Read the speaking Study tip. Match the students in 1 (a-c) with the reasons for practising speaking (1-3).

STUDY TIP

You learn to speak well by speaking more, in and out of class.

Remember:

- 1 Practice is important. It helps you to become more fluent (able to talk more quickly and naturally) and confident. Talking in pairs or groups gives you more time to practise your English.
- 2 Practice is possible outside class. If you don't live in the UK, or another English-speaking country, find other opportunities to speak English.
- 3 Practice doesn't always need to be perfect. Sometimes teachers ask you to speak so they can check you are using the correct language. But there are lots of different reasons to speak when it isn't necessary to say everything perfectly. For example, to make the language that you are learning personal to you or to practise having a conversation in English.

What do you do at the weekend?

What do you think about your school?

When is your birthday?

1 When a student answers with *yes* or *no*, I'll ask follow-up questions to get more information.
For example:
A: Do you like science?
B: No.
A: Why not?
B: Because it's difficult.
A: Why do you find it difficult?

2 I'll work hard in pairs and small groups. For example, I'll encourage quiet students to speak more, by asking them what they think about things. I'll also listen carefully and show interest in what people say.

3 I'll ask my teacher to make contact with students from an English language school in a different country. We can have video calls with them and chat online. We can practise our English when we like.

4 I'll try to use the new language I learn to talk about myself in speaking-practice activities.

5 If a teacher asks a question, I'll try to answer it and not worry about making a mistake.

6 I'll watch an English film with a friend and then we'll talk about it.

7 I'll interview other teachers in the school in English about their lives and their hobbies.

8 I'll record myself and my friend having a conversation with an app and send it to my teacher for correction.

<i>In class</i>	<i>Out of class</i>
<i>I'll ...</i>	<i>I'll ...</i>