

STORYTELLING IN ENGLISH LESSONS: A CREATIVE WAY TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILLS (B2 LEVEL)

Norbayeva Sarvinoz Zafar qizi

Qashqadaryo viloyati Qamashi tumani 51-maktab Ingliz tili fani o'qituvchisi

In today's language classrooms, speaking fluently and confidently has become one of the most important skills for learners. However, many students hesitate to speak because they lack vocabulary, feel nervous about making mistakes, or find traditional speaking exercises uninteresting. Storytelling offers a creative and powerful solution to these issues.

Storytelling is not just about telling tales; it creates an engaging environment where students practice language in context. When students retell folk tales, legends, or personal anecdotes in English, they develop key speaking skills such as pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, and sentence structure. Storytelling also encourages emotional expression and body language, making communication more authentic.

One of storytelling's greatest strengths is its cultural dimension. Using local fairy tales or legends in English helps students connect language learning with their cultural roots. For example, retelling a popular Uzbek legend in English expands vocabulary and makes lessons emotionally meaningful.

From a methodological point of view, storytelling turns a standard classroom into a dynamic workshop. Students can:

- work in groups to create alternative endings for stories,
- perform short dramatizations,
- or even record audio stories or podcasts.

These types of activities promote collaboration, stimulate creativity, and improve critical thinking skills—qualities highly valued in modern education.

Additionally, storytelling fosters a safe learning space where mistakes are seen as part of the learning process, not failures. When students share stories, the focus shifts from correctness to communication, helping build their confidence for real-life speaking situations.

Key Additional Benefits and Practical Ideas:

To enhance the effectiveness of storytelling in the classroom, teachers may consider these strategies:

1. **Visual Support:** Present students with images, flashcards, or short video clips as story prompts. This helps them visualize the narrative and remember key vocabulary.

2. **Role-Play & Drama:** Assign roles to students and have them act out parts of the story. This approach sharpens their speaking and enhances teamwork and creativity.

3. **Digital Storytelling:** Encourage students to use apps or online tools to produce digital stories or record audio narratives. Integrating multimedia makes learning more interactive and modern.

4. **Story Circles:** Organize group activities where each student adds a sentence to build a story together. This keeps everyone involved and supports cooperative thinking.

By including these techniques, teachers can adapt to different learning styles. In conclusion, storytelling in English lessons is more than a teaching method—it links language, culture, and creativity. By using storytelling, teachers can make lessons unforgettable, inspire a love for learning, and help students discover their unique voice in English.

Moreover, it prepares learners for real-world communication by giving them the confidence to express ideas clearly and creatively. As a result, storytelling not only improves language skills but also nurtures essential 21st-century competencies such as collaboration, critical thinking, and cultural awareness.

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