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Mariana KASHCHUK,
orcid.org/0000-0001-5881-3280
PhD in Pedagogics, Associate Professor,
Associate Professor at the Department of Language Training
Lviv State University of Internal Affairs
(Lviv, Ukraine) m_kashchuk@ukr.net

Anzhela POSOKHOVA,
orcid.org/0000-0002-3330-0195
PhD in Philology, Associate Professor,
Associate Professor at the Department of Language Training
Lviv State University of Internal Affairs
(Lviv, Ukraine) posokh3006@gmail.com

TYPES OF INTERACTIVE EXERCISES FOR IMPROVING ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The aim of the article is to consider the role of interactive exercises in the development of communication skills in English in modern foreign language teaching methodology. The article considers the types of interactive exercises, including role-playing games, discussions, language simulations, group projects and debates, as well as their impact on improving students' communication skills. A detailed analysis of the most effective interactive exercises that contribute to the development of language skills, critical thinking and cooperation among students is presented. The impact of interactive teaching methods on the acquisition of grammatical structures, vocabulary and general language competence is emphasised.

Particular attention is paid to the following categories of exercises: Practice Vocabulary: interactive vocabulary activities that help to consolidate new vocabulary in real-life contexts, including through the creation of sentences, acronyms and role-playing games; Practice Discussion: discussion exercises that promote active participation, expression of ideas, development of listening and critical thinking skills, and discussion of different points of view and topics; Practice Listening: listening exercises that significantly improve listening comprehension, pronunciation and intonation skills, enrich vocabulary through the analysis of various videos; Interact with Your Team Members: team exercises that stimulate active interaction and discussion, improve English communication skills and collaboration skills; Problem Solving: real-life problem-solving exercises that develop critical thinking, practical language use and public speaking skills through the analysis of real-life problems.

The article also provides recommendations on how to improve the learning process using interactive exercises, emphasising their importance in preparing students for real-life situations and increasing their confidence in communicating in English.

Key words: interactive exercises, practice vocabulary, practice discussion, practice listening, interact with team members, problem solving.

Мар'яна КАЩУК,
orcid.org/0000-0001-5881-3280
кандидат педагогічних наук, доцент,
доцент кафедри мовної підготовки
Львівського державного університету внутрішніх справ
(Львів, Україна) m_kashchuk@ukr.net

Анжела ПОСОХОВА,
orcid.org/0000-0002-3330-0195
кандидат філологічних наук, доцент,
доцент кафедри мовної підготовки
Львівського державного університету внутрішніх справ
(Львів, Україна) posokh3006@gmail.com

РІЗНОВИДИ ІНТЕРАКТИВНИХ ВПРАВ ДЛЯ ПОКРАЩЕННЯ НАВИЧОК СПІЛКУВАННЯ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ

Метою статті є розгляд ролі інтерактивних вправ у розвитку навичок комунікації англійською мовою в сучасній методології викладання іноземних мов. У статті розглянуто різновиди інтерактивних вправ, включаючи:

ючи рольові ігри, дискусії, мовні симуляції, групові проекти та дебати, а також їх вплив на покращення навичок спілкування студентів. Подано детальний аналіз найефективніших інтерактивних вправ, які сприяють розвитку мовних навичок, критичного мислення та співпраці серед студентів. Наголошено на впливі інтерактивних методів навчання на засвоєння граматичних структур, розширення словникового запасу та підвищення загальної мовленнєвої компетентності.

Особливу увагу приділено таким категоріям вправ: *Practice Vocabulary*: інтерактивні завдання для активної роботи зі словником, що допомагають закріпити нову лексику у реальних контекстах, зокрема через створення речень, акронімів та рольові ігри; *Practice Discussion*: дискусійні вправи, що сприяють активній участі, вираженню ідей, розвитку навичок слухання та критичного мислення, обговоренню різних точок зору та тем; *Practice Listening*: вправи на слухання, які значно покращують навички розуміння на слух, вимову та інтонацію, збагачують словниковий запас через аналіз різних відеоматеріалів; *Interact with Your Team Members*: командні вправи, які стимулюють активну взаємодію та обговорення, покращують комунікаційні здібності англійською мовою та навички співпраці; *Problem Solving*: вправи на вирішення реальних проблем, що розвивають критичне мислення, практичне застосування мови та навички публічних виступів через аналіз реальних проблем.

Стаття також надає рекомендації щодо вдосконалення навчального процесу з використанням інтерактивних вправ, підкреслюючи їх важливість для підготовки студентів до реальних життєвих ситуацій і підвищення їх певності у спілкуванні англійською мовою.

Ключові слова: інтерактивні вправи, робота з лексикою, розвиток навичок обговорення, тренування навичок аудіювання, взаємодія з членами команди, вирішення проблем.

Formulation of the problem. In modern foreign language teaching methodology, interactive exercises play an important role as an effective means of improving communication skills. Interactive teaching methods are based on the active involvement of students in the learning process, stimulating their interaction with groupmates and the teacher. This contributes to a more effective learning of grammatical structures, expanding vocabulary and improving overall language competence.

The types of interactive exercises include role-playing games, discussions, language simulations, group projects, debates, etc. Each of these formats has its own unique characteristics and is suitable for developing certain aspects of communication skills. For example, role-playing games allow students to immerse themselves in real or fictional situations where they can practice language structures in a context close to real life. Discussions and debates, in turn, help to develop critical thinking, the ability to argue their point of view and negotiate in English.

Language simulations and group projects are effective in teaching collaboration and teamwork skills that are essential in today's globalised world. They also help students develop confidence in using English in a variety of contexts, from everyday conversations to professional communication.

Analysis of the latest research. In modern foreign language teaching methodology, considerable attention is paid to the use of interactive teaching methods aimed at improving the level of foreign language proficiency, in particular the development of communication skills. Both domestic and foreign researchers devote their works to studying various aspects of the use of interactive exercises in the learning process.

O. Karpova analyses the latest approaches to teaching foreign languages in higher education. The researcher identifies those methods that are the most effective for teaching a foreign language for profes-

sional purposes, paying a special attention to the importance of interactive approaches in this context. The author emphasises the importance of adapting methods to the specific needs of students, taking into account their professional orientation (Karpova O., 2016).

A. Rybchynska in her article 'Development of communication skills through the introduction of interactive teaching methods in English lessons' analyses the impact of interactive methods on the development of students' communication skills. The author explores the main methods, such as project work, role-playing games, and discussions, which can be used in English lessons to improve the communication level (Rybchynska A., 2023).

Foreign studies also note the importance of interactive methods. Zahrotul L., Diah K. and Sumardi S. focus on the experiences of students who improve their English communication skills through informal online learning. The authors note the effectiveness of using YouTube videos, as well as various social media and chat platforms to practice speaking and communicating with international peers (Zahrotul L., Diah K. & Sumardi S., 2021).

M. Zega, E. Tarigan and A. Ginting focus on the impact of interactive methods on the development of speaking skills. The authors conduct a study using the Classroom Action Research (CAR) method and find that the use of interactive methods significantly increases the average performance of students. Moreover, the study indicates that students perceive interactive teaching methods positively, becoming more motivated to learn English. Additionally, the application of the interactive method positively influences students' speaking ability, which is the achievement of students' speaking skills (Zega M., Tarigan E. & Ginting A., 2023).

The purpose of our study is to examine the types of interactive exercises, their advantages and features, and to analyse their impact on the effectiveness of teaching English speaking. An in-depth under-

standing of these methods will allow teachers to plan classes more effectively and adapt them to the individual needs of students, contributing to their comprehensive language development.

Presenting the main material. Let's analyse what we consider to be the most effective interactive exercises and their role and impact on the development of English communication skills. For the purpose of better understanding the types of activities, all the exercises are united by the general theme "**Training and responding to emergencies**".

The exercises we offer can be classified into the following categories: Practice Vocabulary, Practice Discussion, Practice Listening, Interact with Your Team Members and Problem Solving.

The study of a new topic necessarily begins with the introduction of active vocabulary and textual information that highlights the essence of the problem under study. This is necessary to form a clear idea and understanding of the topic of the lesson.

Practice Vocabulary. Interactive tasks that involve active work with vocabulary play an important role in the development of communication skills in English. They not only expand students' vocabulary, but also deepen their understanding of terms in the context of a particular topic. Such exercises help to strengthen language skills and increase overall language competence. Here's how different types of interactive tasks can help you develop your communication skills:

1. **Word Usage in Scenarios.** Provide a list of types of emergencies (e.g., earthquake, flood, fire) and ask students to create sentences or short scenarios illustrating how people might respond in each situation.

Activities that involve creating sentences or short scenarios for different emergencies, such as an earthquake, flood or fire, help students to practice vocabulary in real-life contexts. This contributes to a better learning of new words and expressions that are important for practical communication.

2. **Emergency Acronyms.** Have students create acronyms for types of emergencies (e.g., FIRE for Fire Incident Response and Evacuation).

This exercise encourages creativity and helps students focus on important terms related to safety and emergency response.

3. **Medical Vocabulary Matching.** Provide a list of medical terms related to first aid (e.g., CPR, bandage, AED) and ask students to match each term with its corresponding definition.

Tasks involving correlation of medical terms with their definitions contribute to a deeper understanding of specialised vocabulary.

4. **First Aid Role-Play.** Assign students different first aid scenarios and ask them to create dialogues or role-play situations where they use appropriate first aid vocabulary.

Role-plays where students use appropriate first aid vocabulary help them practice real-life dialogues and

communication in crisis situations, which increases their confidence and language competence.

5. **Emergency Scenario Word Fill.** Provide students with short scenarios related to emergencies but with key terms missing. Ask them to fill in the blanks with appropriate emergency-related vocabulary.

Fill-in-the-blank tasks in texts help students to better understand the context and use of specialised vocabulary, improving their language comprehension and use skills.

Practice Discussion. Discussion exercises play an important role in learning, especially in learning English. Here are some activities to develop discussion skills.

1. **Prioritizing Emergency Responses:** Discuss the importance of prioritizing responses to different types of emergencies. Consider scenarios where multiple emergencies might occur simultaneously and brainstorm strategies to handle such situations effectively.

2. **Community Preparedness for Emergencies:** Explore the role of communities in preparing for various emergencies. Discuss how community members can collaborate with emergency services to enhance preparedness and response efforts.

3. **Empathy in First Aid:** Explore the role of empathy in delivering first aid. Discuss how empathy can positively impact the communication between a first responder and the person receiving aid.

4. **Student Involvement in Evacuation Planning:** Discuss the importance of involving students in the development and review of evacuation plans. Explore ways to engage students in understanding and participating in the evacuation process.

5. **Post-Evacuation Support:** Explore the psychological and emotional aspects of post-evacuation experiences. Discuss the importance of providing support and resources for individuals who have experienced evacuations.

In our opinion, the role of such exercises is significant, as students develop the following skills: active participation (discussions encourage students to actively participate, which helps them express their thoughts more freely in English; such practice helps overcome the language barrier and increases self-confidence); expression of ideas (discussions allow students to practice expressing their thoughts and arguments in English; this contributes to the development of skills in formulating clear and logical statements); listening skills (participation in discussions helps students develop active listening skills; they learn to listen attentively to interlocutors, understand different points of view, and respond in accordance with the context); critical thinking (discussions stimulate the development of critical thinking, as students analyze information, form their own opinions, and justify them; this contributes to the development of skills in analyzing and synthesizing information in English); deeper understanding of the topic (discussions help students better understand the topics being studied, as

they exchange knowledge and experience with others; this contributes to consolidating knowledge and broadening their horizons); exchange of thoughts and ideas (discussions facilitate the exchange of different points of view, which helps students see the situation from different angles; this develops tolerance and understanding of cultural diversity).

Practice Listening. Listening exercises are an essential component of learning English and can significantly improve communication skills. Despite possible difficulties, regular listening practice helps to achieve a high level of language proficiency and confidence in communication. From this perspective, we fully support the importance and necessity of such exercises. They contribute to the development of listening comprehension skills, which is important for communication in real-life situations; pronunciation and intonation; vocabulary enrichment, as listening exercises allow you to get acquainted with new vocabulary and phrases in context; and linguistic intuition, which allows you to recognise and understand the content of conversations faster.

For English classes, we select listening material according to the topic of the lesson and the level of language proficiency of the students.

1. 10 Easy Ways to Handle an Emergency Situation (10.30 min)

Level B1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNVGqxAIGFo>

2. Let's Learn English! Topic: Emergency Preparedness (32 min)

Level B1-B2 (with subtitles)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmZtBqu4ATw>

3. Responding to Incidents, Accidents and Emergencies (9 min)

Level B2+

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA_-G_y56Ek

Interact with Your Team Members. Another interesting and effective type of oral task is team building exercises, which involve teamwork and interaction between team members. These interactive exercises not only help participants to improve their knowledge and skills in the field of emergency management, but also contribute significantly to the development of communication skills in English. They encourage participants to actively interact, discuss and solve problems together, which is critical for effective team communication and cooperation.

Let's analyse some of the tasks and their impact on the development of English communication skills.

1. First Aid Kit Challenge. Provide teams with materials to create a mini first aid kit. Each member contributes an item, and teams discuss the importance of each item in the kit.

This activity promotes teamwork and communication as participants discuss the meaning of each item

in the first aid kit. It also helps to improve vocabulary related to first aid and medical terminology.

2. Emergency Services Communication Exercise. Develop scenarios where teams must communicate with emergency services in a simulated setting. This could include making emergency calls, providing information, and collaborating with responders. Teams discuss their communication strategies afterward.

This exercise develops effective communication skills in stressful situations. A simulated emergency call helps participants learn to communicate clearly and quickly, which is critical in an emergency.

3. Interactive Emergency Services Workshop. Invite representatives from emergency services to conduct a workshop with teams. Discuss effective communication, share real-life examples, and engage in role-playing scenarios that involve interaction with emergency services.

Workshops with emergency service representatives provide realistic training and insight into the practical aspects of interacting with rescuers. It helps to improve listening and communication skills, and enriches participants with new knowledge and experience.

Problem Solving. Real-life problem-solving exercises contribute significantly to developing English speaking skills as they combine practical application of the language with the development of critical thinking and communication skills. These exercises not only help participants to understand the material better, but also improve their ability to communicate effectively and confidently in different situations.

Furthermore, exercises aimed at solving real-life problems in the context of emergencies have several important aspects: first, practical application of knowledge (such exercises help participants apply their theoretical knowledge in practical scenarios, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the material); second, development of critical thinking (working on real-life problems stimulates the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are important for any language); third, improvement of speaking skills (exercises involve active communication, which helps to improve self-confidence and the ability of students to express their thoughts).

Here are some examples of such tasks.

Example:

Problem: *Community members lack awareness of how to respond during various emergencies, leading to confusion and delayed actions during crises.*

Action taken:

Organize workshops to educate community members about different types of emergencies (e.g., earthquakes, floods, fires). Provide information on assembling emergency kits and distribute kits or supplies to vulnerable populations. Conduct community-wide simulated emergency drills to practice response procedures and enhance preparedness.

Problem 1: Inadequate coordination among bystanders during medical emergencies, leading to disorganized or ineffective response efforts.

Action taken:

Problem 2: Students and staff are unfamiliar with evacuation procedures, causing confusion and potential safety risks during drills or actual emergencies.

Action taken:

Problem 3: Limited coordination among different emergency response agencies during large-scale disasters, leading to delays and inefficiencies in the overall response.

Action taken:

Conclusions. In modern foreign language teaching methodology, interactive exercises are a powerful tool that helps to improve communication skills. Interactive teaching methods based on the active involvement of students in the learning process stimulate their interaction with groupmates and the teacher, which contributes to more effective learning of grammatical structures, vocabulary expansion and improvement of overall language competence. The use of such methods in the learning process helps prepare students for real-life situations, as well as achieve a high level of language proficiency and confidence in communication. As for the prospects for further research, we propose to develop a manual with different types of interactive exercises for teaching English for specific purposes.

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