

ELT for Primary School Students

Learning English as a Second Language (L2) has certain special features as it is not our mother tongue (Gujarati) or our National Language (Hindi). In a way it can be said we are two steps away from learning it directly. To learn a language it is required to acquire four basic skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. It is famously known as LSRW Skills in ELT [English Language Teaching]. It is the sequence of learning a language be it your first language (L1) or second language (L2). The first skill is listening by which we adopt to the vocabulary and pronunciations of a particular language along with the intonations or accents.

The next step is to start using the learned words in your routine life. When one uses the word or sentences heard, s/he adopts that in the contextual or referential meaning. It is the practical usage of the theoretical knowledge acquired by listening to a language. After this, comes the Reading - learning the script, identifying the alphabets and making out the meaning. If this part is covered in the learning process, one can move to the next step of Writing. The creative writing is still far away, but at least the basic skill can be acquired.

This is the proper channel of learning a second language. In this way we can acquire it like the native speaker. While in formal education, the sequence becomes almost reverse like first we learn to identify the script of English language - as we start learning the alphabets of the language. So, Reading Skill is taken first, and then we learn to write those letters by overwriting books or copy- writing books. The Writing skill that is productive skill is taken at very early stage at pre – school when the receptive skills like listening and reading are not promoted much. Next to this kind of writing skill enhancement, comes the turn for Reading and Speaking is still a step behind. The learners do not get opportunity to speak in the language and emphasis on grammar hinders their growth of receptive skill like listening and productive skill like speaking. As a result, we do not get good speakers of English. At school level, especially at primary level English Language Teaching should be done keeping the LSRW in mind. It would prove to be the effective and easy way of teaching a second language.

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