# SPEAKING ACTIVITY

## Shadowing*

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| **Objective** | : | To enable learners to acquire the abilities such as active listening, faster process of syntax and semantics, intelligible pronunciation and effective speaking. |
| **Preparation** | : | Learners are to listen to audio materials of their choice on their mobile phones/MP3 players/TV/radio and so on as frequently as possible for a total familiarization. |
| **Participation** | **:** | Individual |
| **Duration** | **:** | 5 minutes |

### Procedure

- Teacher identifies appropriate audio texts (lyrics, stories, dialogues, and thematic texts – informative texts based on specific themes) and plays them in the class two to three times. If learners are at the threshold level, he could provide transcripts as well to aid their comprehension.
- Teacher divides the class into 6 member groups and gives the following instructions:
  - o Groups could listen to the audio text again with/without the transcript, if necessary
  - o To start with, the groups do the shadowing in chorus.
  - o Later on, every member of the group does the shadowing one after the other.
  - o While one is shadowing, other members jot down the errors such as skipping words, substituting words, wrong pronunciations, and intonations, and offer their feedback.
- When the group task is done, the teacher gets a couple of volunteers to re-do the shadowing and elicits feedback from the class.
- The activity is concluded with the teacher suggesting the following:
  - a) Students could choose the audio materials of their interest and download them onto their mobile phones to do the shadowing.
  - b) Audio materials are to be identified from sources such as audio books, podcasts, and TV/radio channels that have contemporary relevance.
  - c) Shadowing is not merely parroting but comprehending and reproducing the content.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Learners realize that they could enhance their oral competence with greater fluency and accuracy by shadowing.
2. Learners also realize that they could develop their mastery of language by using a strategy such as self-check. (They could record their shadowing to compare with the original text, leading to corrective steps, if any.)

### Further Activity

Learners could listen to audio texts, especially English lyrics, as often as possible, and repeat along with the speaker/singer to gain the approximation for better linguistic output.
*Shadowing is a technique of repeating verbatim and almost simultaneously what one hears. Unlike the normal 'listen and repeat' technique, learners need not wait for an utterance to be completed to repeat it. Shadowing will be a huge waste of time if it is used only for the purpose of acquiring native-like pronunciation.