SPEAKING ENGLISH: DIGITAL MEANS FOR LEARNING FROM HOME

Knowing how to speak English opens doors and changes your life. The only way to learn how to speak is to speak, which is why all English lessons focus on speaking. After acquiring the new language, you will gain further confidence by reproducing it with others in speaking activities. By practicing speaking English in a relaxing environment, students do not worry if they say something wrong because it is an important part of the learning process [1].

Home is a peaceful place where you can learn the way you want to. There is no other place in the world where you can just completely relax. Being comfortable produces successful learning. You can study at any time you want, no need to leave the house and travel to a different place. You get to follow your own learning pace without worrying to keep up with your classmates. If there is no pressure, you will feel more at ease with learning.

Much attention have long been paid to different aspects of learning English [2; 3]. In the current time-concise world, though, there are much more opportunities to study English using modern devices and technologies, while staying at home. It is actually surprising how many things you can do from home to learn speaking English, not to mention the fact that you do not have to pay. Therefore, the aim of the research is to examine the key digital means for practicing the skills of speaking English at home.

Singing. At home, you can relax and sing your favourite songs as loudly as you want. Before you can sing, though, you will need to learn the lyrics and practice. Search through music videos to find a song you enjoy at your level, to understand the lyrics and learn new words. Next, sing along with the singer several times, and then finally you are ready for singing karaoke. Singing karaoke is when you sing along to a song that does not have the vocal track, only the background music, so you are the only one singing. As long as you sing in English, you will improve your speaking skills while having a good time.

Exercising with video. If you choose to exercise, use English workout videos instead, in particular the videos that have subtitles. When you work out, try and read those subtitles. Once the video starts, copy the movements and the words. So if the instructor is counting, count along with him or her. Not only will your body get a good workout, your tongue will experience great English exercise too.

Chatting online. One of the best ways to learn to speak in English is learning with friends. Instead of chatting with them through your keyboard, just do a voice or video call. This way, you can practice speaking in English in a conversational way. This will be good
practice for you both. Some of the most useful video and voice chat apps are Skype and Viber. Install the application, and start talking to your friends in your contacts phonebook. Both apps can be used on desktop and mobile. You call a friend like how you usually make a call on your mobile phone.

Recording oneself. Recording yourself will help you know your pronunciation mistakes. To record yourself, you can use your smartphone, tablet or even your laptop. Simply start by finding a piece that you would like to read, and then open up your device’s audio recorder and start recording yourself. Keep recording your English speaking sessions at home until you perfect the piece you are reading. After that, you can move on to a different piece and also challenge yourself with more advanced vocabulary.

Audio blogging. An audio blog is kind of like a blog of podcasts, where you record yourself for other people to hear. To make an audio blog, use any audio recorder you have and record files of yourself speaking. You can talk about whatever you want: share stories, give your opinion, etc. After you record them, you can upload it to your blog and publish the post to let other people hear what you have to say. If you have native English speaking friends, ask them for constructive feedback. They will give you pronunciation tips, praise and ways to improve.

Finally, to have the successful results, you need to stay positive when learning, tell yourself encouraging things and believe in yourself. In addition to being positive, you need to be persistent, dedicated and most of all, committed. These characteristics will bring you many learning successes. Practice with your tongue and keep the right mind set, and you will surely be a fluent English speaker.

References: