

Psychological characteristics of the speech

This work is devoted to main psychological characteristics of oral language and describes effective methods of teaching the speech.

1. Speech must be motivated. The speaker expresses a desire to inform the hearers of something interesting, important, or to get information from them. But very often oral speech is motivated outwardly, for instance, pupils' answers at an examination. In teaching a foreign language it is necessary to think over the motives which make pupils speak. Try to use those stimuli which can arouse a pupils' wish to respond in their own way.

2. Speech is always addressed to an interlocutor. A teacher should organize the teaching process in a way which allows pupils to speak to someone. When speaking, a pupil should address the audience, and not the teacher or the ceiling as is often the case. The speakers will hold their audience when they say something new, something individual (personal). Try to supply pupils with assignments which require individual approach on their part.

3. Speech is always emotionally coloured, as speakers express their thoughts, their feelings, their attitude to what they say. Teach pupils how to use intonation means to express their attitude, their feelings about what they say. That can be done by giving such tasks as: the reason why you like the story; prove something; give your opinion on the episode, or on the problem concerned, etc.

4. Speech is always situational for it takes place in a certain situation. While teaching speaking real and close-to-real situations should be created to stimulate pupils' speech. Think of the situations you can use in class to make pupils' speech situational. Remember the better you know the class the easier it is for you to create situations for pupils to speak about. These are the four psychological factors which are to be taken into account when teaching speech.