



INSTRUCTIONAL TIPS FOR LEARNERS WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT



Speech and language impairment refers to difficulties or delays in communication, such as speech sound disorders, language disorders, stuttering, and voice disorders. These impairments can affect a person's ability to express themselves clearly, understand others, and interact socially. There are three basic types of speech impairments: articulation disorders, fluency disorders, and voice disorders.

- **Articulation disorders** are errors in the production of speech sounds that may be related to anatomical or physiological constraints in the skeletal, muscular, or neuromuscular support for speech production. These disorders include:
 - Omissions: (co for coat)
 - Substitutions: (wat for rat)
 - Distortions: (thlip for tip)
- **Fluency disorders** are difficulties with the rhythm and timing of speech indicated by hesitations, repetitions, or prolongations of sounds, syllables, words, or phrases. Common fluency disorders include:
 - Stuttering: rapid-fire repetitions of consonant or vowel sounds especially at the beginning of words, prolongations, hesitations, interjections, and complete verbal blocks
 - Cluttering: excessively fast and jerky speech
- **Voice disorders** are difficulties with the quality or use of one's voice resulting from disorders in the larynx. Voice disorders are characterized by abnormal production and/or absences of vocal quality, pitch, loudness, resonance, and/or duration.



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Symptoms of speech and language impairment can vary depending on the type and severity of the impairment. **Some common symptoms may include:**

- Difficulty pronouncing words or sounds correctly.
- Difficulty understanding spoken language.
- Limited vocabulary or difficulty finding the right words to express themselves.
- Difficulty following instructions or participating in conversations.
- Stuttering or repeating words or phrases
- Using incorrect grammar or syntax
- Speaking with a hoarse or raspy voice
- Struggling to communicate with peers or adults in social situations.

It is important to note that if you or someone you know has a speech or language impairment, please seek professional evaluation and treatment from a licensed speech-language pathologist.

Some beneficial instructional tips and strategies for learners with Speech and Language Impairment include:

1. **Use visual aids:** Visual aids, such as pictures, diagrams, and videos, can help students with speech and language impairments understand concepts more easily. This can also help them to better express themselves.
2. **Use simple language:** Using simple, concise language can help students with speech and language impairments understand what you are saying. Avoid using complex or technical language that they may not understand.



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3. **Give extra time:** Students with speech and language impairments may need extra time to process information and respond. Allow them extra time to formulate their thoughts and express themselves.
4. **Use repetition:** Repeat important information or instructions to help students with speech and language impairments remember them. You can also ask them to repeat back what they heard to ensure understanding.
5. **Encourage interaction:** Encourage students with speech and language impairments to interact with their peers and participate in group activities. This can help them to develop their social and communication skills.
6. **Use positive reinforcement:** Use positive reinforcement, such as praise and rewards, to encourage students with speech and language impairments when they make progress or complete a task.
7. **Use assistive technology:** Assistive technology, such as speech-to-text software or communication apps, can help students with speech and language impairments communicate more easily.
8. **Collaborate with speech therapists:** Collaborate with speech therapists or other professionals who work with students with speech and language impairments to develop strategies and activities that can help them in the classroom. Collaborate with them to develop a comprehensive Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for meeting the student's academic and social-emotional needs.