

Writing and reading skills

Writing and reading skills Writing and reading skills were also given priority under the traditional technique to the detriment of the aural and oral ones. Consequently, the overall communicative ability of the students was wholly inadequate. Consider this: After a number of years of learning, letâ€™s say, Spanish, were you able to follow a movie or a television program in that language? Did you feel happy speaking Spanish? Or did you panic at the idea of having to travel and engage with native speakers? This is what having poor communicative ability means, and it is characteristic of traditionally taught students.

More recently if you have joined a language class you probably discovered a totally different approach: You spent hours and hours repeating sentences after the teacher, without even knowing how they were spelled or what each word meant. You were told that this was not essential.

The theory was that â€˜communicatingâ€™ was the crucial (and only) thing. This is a typical example of the audio-lingual technique, a response to the traditional method. Speaking and listening are the skills emphasized here, so students almost never write or read.

Regrettably, most of the conversations practiced are not even close to the kind of real conversation you would have with a native speaker.

Youâ€™ve probably worked out by now that the most thorough and effective method to learn a foreign language should be a combination of traditional and latest techniques. This approach tries to pay equal emphasis to and bring together the different skills by presenting the grammar in a conversational format. Students also need useful exercises that they can relate to what they do in their everyday lives. In other words, language teaching needs to be

oriented towards a context that is pertinent for learners, with resources that engage them

and make them become absorbed in their learning. And how can those of us with hectic daily schedules find the time and money to acquire these skills? Well the good news is that e-learning is now a serious and viable option for language teaching.

Online language learning is self-paced, can be undertaken at whatever time you have available and involves no travel. You can register and start instantly, and it need not cost a fortune. And if the thought of practicing your new language skills in front a class strikes fear in you, then now you need not put yourself through it, you can learn in the comfort and security of your own home.