

# **LANGUAGE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**



## **UNIT 2: Academic and Social Language**





# Topics to be covered:

Language: meaning, concept, definitions, aims, objectives functions and importance – proficiency of home language and school language - Strategies for Enhancing Language proficiency: drama, essay, story telling, group discussion, peer tutoring - nature of expository texts Vs. narrative texts - transactional Vs. reflexive texts. reading comprehension skills, language skills and literacy skills - linguistic education: academic language and social language, CALP skills, BICS skills, conceptual literacy.



Language helps us communicate thoughts and emotions, and it plays a key role in connecting with others. There are two main types: **academic language**, which is formal and used in schools and workplaces for tasks like writing essays and understanding textbooks, and **social language**, which is informal and used in daily conversations to build relationships. Both are important for adapting to different situations. This guide emphasizes learning language in meaningful ways, applying it in real-life contexts, and understanding people from different cultures. Mastering academic and social language prepares students for success in education, work, and life.

# Understanding Language Meaning

## Beyond Grammar and Vocabulary

Teaching language meaningfully goes beyond just grammar and vocabulary. Focus on how students can use the language to express their ideas and understand others.

## Context-Based Learning

Instead of memorizing words, students should learn how those words are used in sentences. When learners engage with real-life scenarios, they develop a deeper understanding of the language.

# The Concept of Language: A Multifaceted System

## 1 Definitions and Perspectives

Language is a complex concept, defined differently by various experts. **Henry Sweet** described it as the "expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words," while **Bloch and Trager** viewed it as "a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which a social group cooperates."

## 2 Symbols and Communication

Language comprises symbols, whether spoken sounds, written characters, or gestures in signed languages. These symbols enable people to communicate information, express emotions, and influence others.

## 3 Variations and Importance

Different languages exist due to variations in symbols and rules. The importance of language lies in its ability to foster connection and collaboration.





# Aims of Language Teaching: Equipping Students for Success

## Primary Aim

The primary aim of teaching language is to equip students with skills for effective communication in various contexts, from academic environments to global business interactions.

## Strategic Goals

Strategic goals include building mutual understanding among people of different countries and cultures, developing talents and abilities that prepare students for future challenges, and fostering skills that enhance career opportunities in a globalized world.

## Teaching Methods

Teaching methods must include a combination of language instruction at various levels and cultural education to provide context for language usage.



# General Aims of Language Learning: Empowering Students



## Effective Communication

Developing the ability to use language for practical communication in academic, professional, and social settings.



## Appreciation of Texts

Encouraging students to engage with various types of texts—literary, non-literary, formal, and informal.



## Understanding Language as a System

Helping students comprehend how language works, including grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, while integrating linguistic, cultural, and social elements.



## Cultural Insight

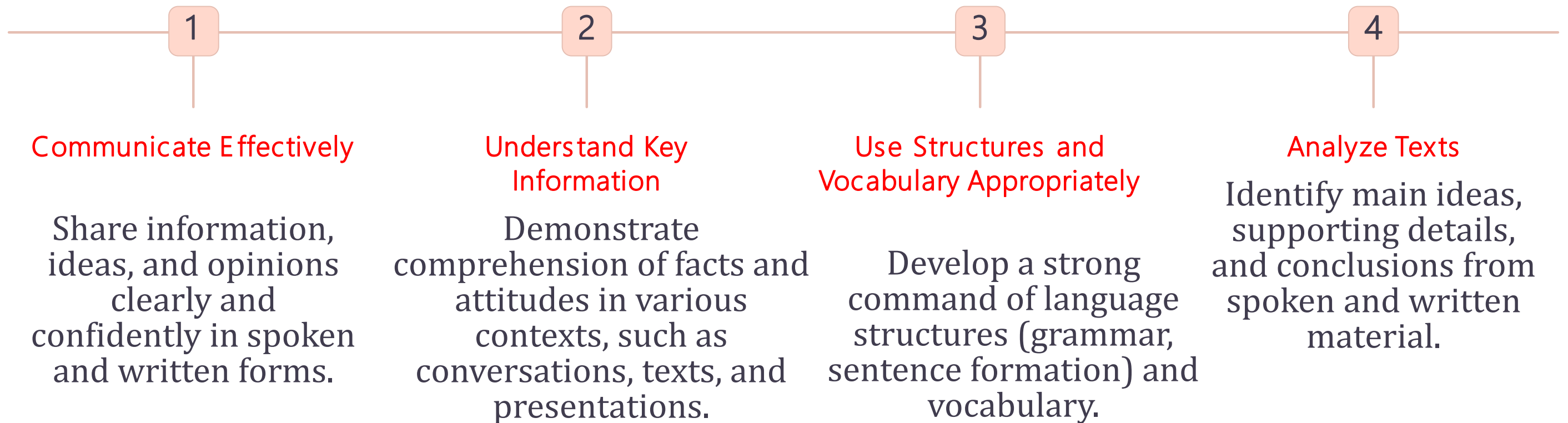
Offering a window into the customs, traditions, and values of communities where the language is spoken.







# Learning Objectives – Part 1: Practical and Theoretical Skills





# Learning Objectives – Part 2:

## Interaction, Cultural Awareness, and Critical Thinking

1

### Engage in Conversations

Participate actively in oral discussions with accurate pronunciation and intonation, ensuring clarity and comprehension.

2

### Request and Provide Information

Interact in both formal and informal settings, adapting language to suit the situation.

3

### Address Cultural and International Issues

Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural nuances and engage in discussions about global topics.

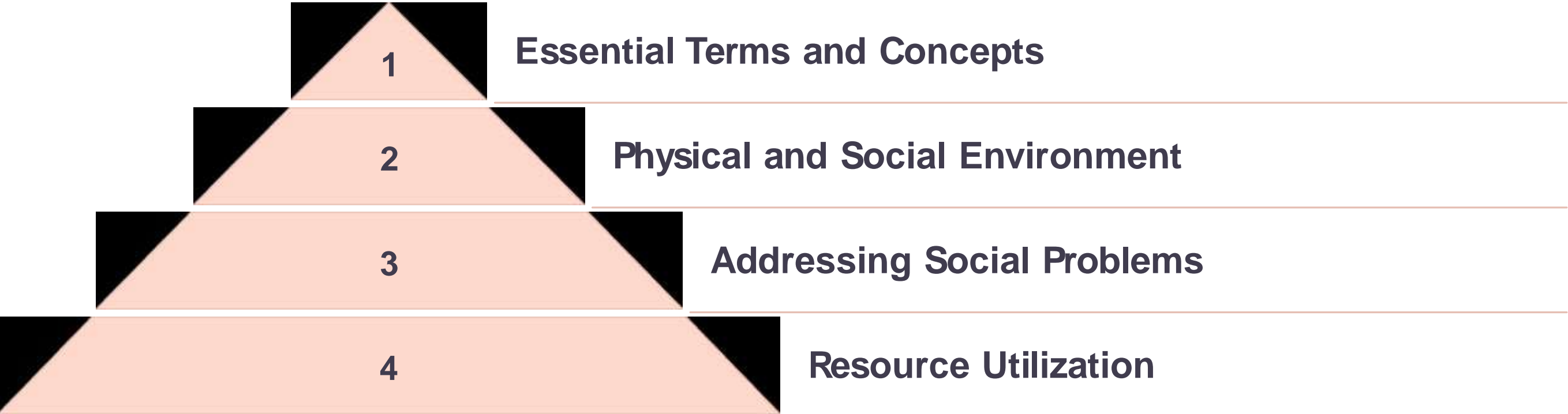
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### Take Part in Formal and Informal Exchanges

Develop skills for negotiating, persuading, and collaborating in diverse scenarios.



# Understanding Objectives: Foundational Knowledge and Critical Thinking





# Skill Objectives: Practical Abilities for Effective Application

1

Reading and Interpretation

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2

Data Utilization

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3

Problem-Solving

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4

Use of Technology

# Attitude Objectives: Shaping Perspectives and Values

1

## Positive Attitudes

Encouraging respect and tolerance for people of different cultures, religions, and backgrounds.

2

## Democratic Values

Instilling a belief in the goodness of democratic systems and cooperative governance.

3

## Trust and Empathy

Developing sympathy and understanding toward others, irrespective of differences.

4

## Lifelong Interest

Inspiring curiosity and passion for learning languages, ensuring continued engagement beyond the classroom.





# Language Proficiency

Language proficiency refers to an individual's ability to use a language accurately and effectively in various contexts. It involves the development of skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Language proficiency is crucial for communication, education, and social interaction. The ability to understand and use a language effectively can determine success in academics and career. Various methods, such as drama, storytelling, essay writing, group discussions, and peer tutoring, enhance language proficiency.



# The Foundation: Home Language

## Definition

Home language, also known as the mother tongue, is the primary language spoken at home and in the community. It's the language children first use to express emotions, communicate needs, and learn.

## Importance

Home language fosters emotional connection, eases early learning, supports cognitive development, and strengthens cultural identity.





# Navigating Challenges in Home Language Proficiency

## Physiological Issues

Speech impairments like stammering or hearing disabilities can impact language acquisition.

## Bilingual Homes

Parents speaking different languages can create confusion for the child.

## Parental Language Preference

Some families prioritize English or another dominant language over their home language.

## Environmental Factors

Exposure to different languages, lack of consistent practice, and family separation can hinder fluency.

# The School Language: A Formal Approach

## Definition

School language is the medium of instruction in an educational setting. It may or may not be the same as the home language.

## Importance

School language is crucial for academic success, social interaction, career opportunities, and global competence.



# Home vs. School Language: A Comparative View

## 1 **Learning Process**

Home language is acquired naturally, while school language is learned through formal education.

## 2 **Usage**

Home language is used in informal settings, while school language is used in academic and professional environments.

## 3 **Exposure**

Home language exposure is constant, while school language exposure depends on curriculum and practice.

## 4 **Complexity**

School language includes technical and subject-specific vocabulary.



# Strategies for Language Proficiency Enhancement



## Drama

Engages learners in interactive language use.



## Essay Writing

Strengthens structured expression.



## Storytelling

Encourages creative use of language.



## Group Discussions

Enhances speaking and listening skills.



## Peer Tutoring

Facilitates collaborative learning.

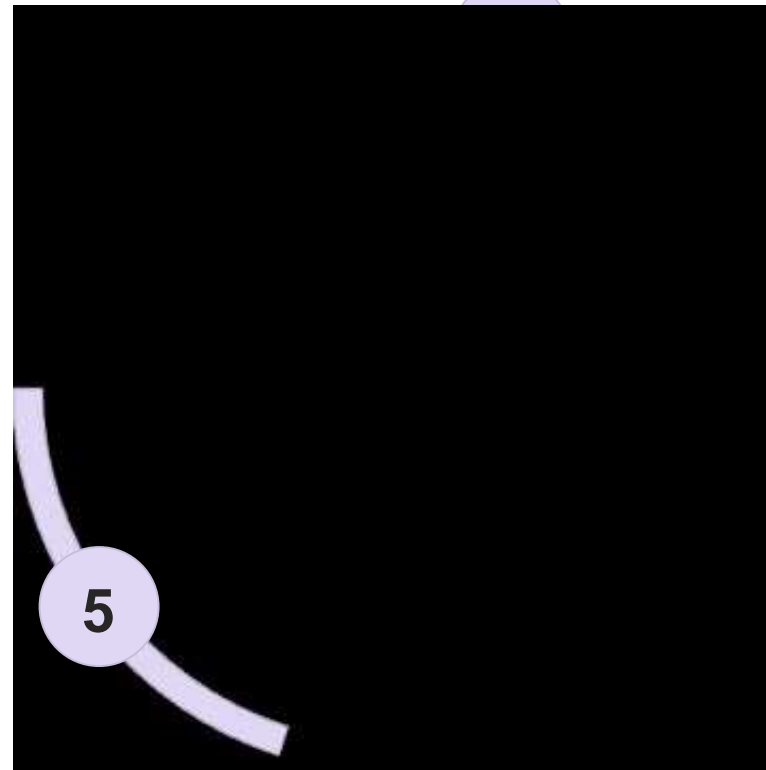
# Drama: A Stage for Language Growth

## **Natural Exposure**

Dramas based on real-life scenarios provide practical sentence structures.

## **Fun and Interactive**

Engaging activities motivate students to participate actively.



## **Repetition**

Repeating words and phrases aids vocabulary and grammar retention.

## **Context-Based Learning**

Setting, characters, and emotions make language learning meaningful.

## **Confidence Building**

Performing in front of others helps students overcome hesitation.



# Essay Writing: Crafting Coherent Communication

1

Introduction

Presents the main idea or argument.

2

Body

Discusses the topic with supporting details.

3

Conclusion

Summarizes key points and provides a final perspective.



# Storytelling: Weaving Language into Narrative

## **Listening and Speaking**

Students learn to articulate words and phrases naturally.

## **Creativity**

Students learn to frame sentences and express ideas creatively.

## **Cultural Understanding**

Stories reflect different traditions and help students appreciate diverse languages.

## **Vocabulary and Grammar**

Frequent exposure to storytelling helps learners absorb sentence structures and new words.



# Group Discussions: Fostering Collaborative Communication



## **Fluency**

Encourages students to think and speak spontaneously.

## **Confidence**

Speaking in front of peers builds self-assurance.

## **Active Listening**

Listening to others improves comprehension skills.

## **Critical Thinking**

Encourages students to form and express opinions logically.

## **Vocabulary Expansion**

Exposure to different perspectives introduces new words and expressions.



# Collaborative Learning for Language Improvement

Collaborative learning is an effective way to enhance language proficiency through interactive activities. Key strategies like drama, essay writing, storytelling, group discussions, and peer tutoring play a crucial role in developing various language skills. **Drama** boosts speaking and listening abilities, while **essay writing** refines grammar and vocabulary. **Storytelling** enhances creativity and narrative skills, and **group discussions** foster fluency and confidence in speaking. **Peertutoring** reinforces language concepts for both the tutor and learner. Together, these methods create a dynamic and comprehensive approach to language learning.



# The Power of Drama in Language Learning

## Immersive Learning

Drama provides an immersive environment for language acquisition, allowing students to interact, express, and practice language skills in real-time.

## Natural Language Acquisition

Unlike traditional rote learning, drama encourages natural language acquisition through structured dialogues, improvisation games, and role-playing.





# Essay Writing: A Foundation for Academic Skills

## Structured Thinking

Essay writing teaches students how to analyze and present information effectively, developing their critical thinking and writing skills.

## Grammar Mastery

Essay writing reinforces grammar rules, sentence structures, punctuation, and word order, leading to improved grammatical accuracy.





# Storytelling: Engaging the Imagination for Language Development



Storytelling engages the imagination, helping students visualize and remember vocabulary, idioms, and cultural nuances.



It encourages the use of synonyms, varied expressions, and figurative language, expanding vocabulary and narrative skills.

# Group Discussions: Fostering Verbal Communication Skills

1

Group discussions encourage active participation, enhancing speaking and listening skills, and building confidence in verbal communication.

2

They provide a platform for constructive argumentation, teaching students how to present opinions logically and respond thoughtfully.







# The Power of Peer Tutoring in Language Learning



## Active Learning

Peer tutoring encourages active learning and engagement, providing an opportunity for repeated practice and deeper understanding.

## Confidence Building

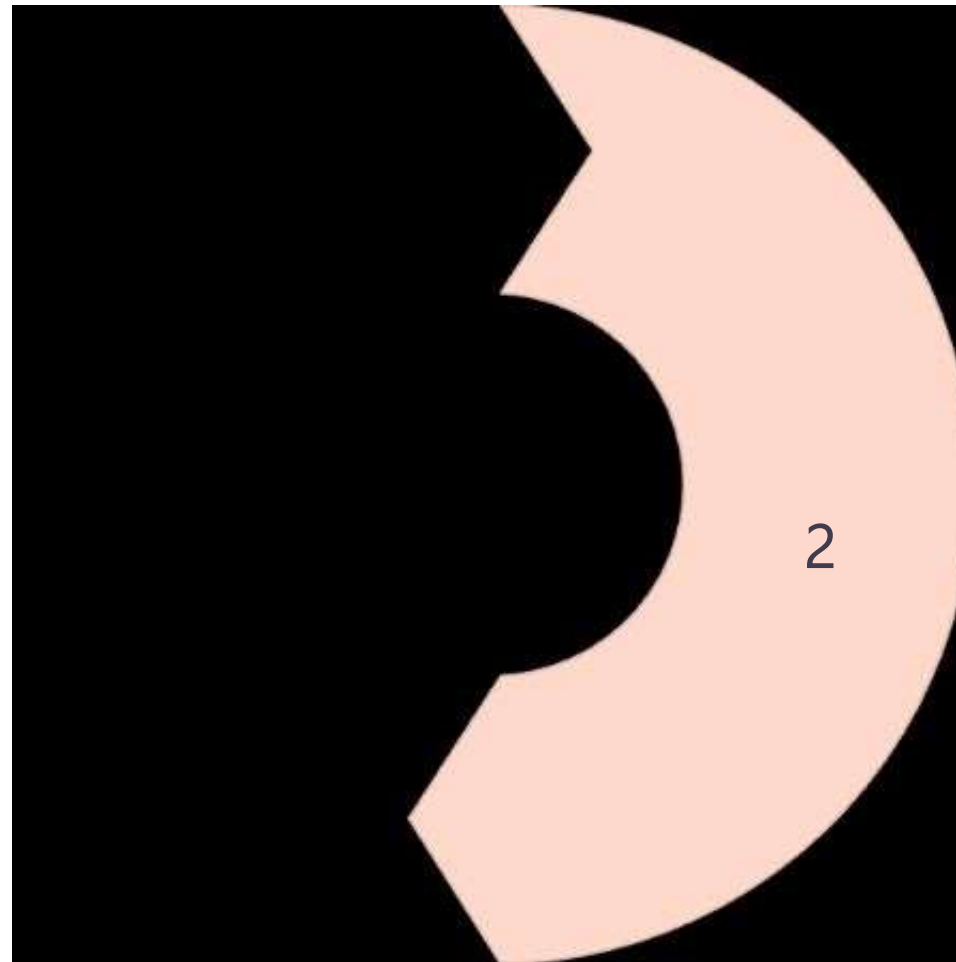
It builds confidence in both tutors and learners, as they gain experience in explaining concepts and receiving feedback.



# Enhancing Pronunciation and Fluency Through Drama

## Intonation & Stress

Drama encourages correct intonation and stress patterns, helping students master difficult words through repetition.



## Real-Life Practice

It provides real-life speaking practice in a safe environment, reducing hesitation in using new vocabulary and improving fluency.

# Mastering Grammar Through Essay Writing



## Sentence Structure

Essay writing helps students use sentence structures correctly, reinforcing punctuation, tenses, and word order.

## Logical Writing

It encourages logical and coherent writing, providing practice in using conjunctions and transitions effectively.

# Storytelling: A Tool for Expanding Vocabulary

1

## Contextual Learning

Storytelling provides context for understanding new words, encouraging the use of synonyms and varied expressions.

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2

## Retention & Engagement

It introduces idioms and figurative language, helping retain words better through repeated exposure and making learning engaging.



# Conclusion: Integrating Language Learning Strategies

1

## Drama

Improves fluency, pronunciation, and confidence.

2

## Essay Writing

Develops structured thinking and grammar skills.

3

## Storytelling

Enhances vocabulary and narrative abilities.

4

## Group Discussions

Strengthens verbal communication skills.

5

## Peer Tutoring

Encourages collaborative learning and deeper understanding.

By integrating these strategies, students can develop a well-rounded language proficiency, becoming confident and effective communicators.