

Podcast Chingu

Ep 03. 언어 공부, 뭐가 가장 중요할까?



Listen to our Podcast

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5WEoWlzn9DW16SV5Xtlzl?si=uxQ7ActDQOOtTZQSQW7gPA>

Get your Script & Study Pack

<https://koreanbooster.com/blog/koreanbooster-podcast-ep3>

Join our 30-day Challenge

<https://koreanbooster.com/speaking-challenge-booking-page>

****Read with time stamps [here](#). (On the right side bar, click “More” - “Show Time stamps”)**

Hi everyone! It's **Korean Booster Chingu**, Teacher Garam, back again! I've been living abroad for seven years now, but I don't really have anyone to talk to, so I'm always dying to chat. 😊

So, what do you think is the most important kind of practice when learning a language? Speaking? Listening? Or writing? Reading? Well, of course they're all important. But today, I'm going to talk about two of the most important types of practice: **speaking and writing**.

So, why am I only talking about speaking and writing? After teaching for a long time, I've noticed something: most students focus a lot on input, but not so much on output. Of course, when you're first learning a language, getting lots of input is really important. You need to listen a lot and read a lot so that you can get used to the nuances and intonation of the language and get plenty of exposure to new vocabulary.

That doesn't mean listening and reading aren't important. It's just that students tend to do relatively little output. What's the goal of learning a language? To communicate, right? We learn a language so we can understand and communicate with the people we love, our friends, our family, or even our favorite idols, singers, or actors, right? And when it comes to communicating, output is actually one of the most important things. If you don't practice speaking and writing, you can't really learn how to communicate. And, well, I'm a Korean teacher, too, right? So I wanted to share some of the tips and advice I've given my students over the years with you guys.

So first, how can you practice speaking? Well, everyone has a different personality and a different learning style, right? And not everyone is in the same situation. For example, I think there are many more people who, like me, don't live in a country where the language they're

learning is spoken. And on top of that, some students may not have a lot of time or money, so taking conversation classes can be difficult for them. Right? So I thought about how you can practice speaking in a way that suits your personality and without spending as much money as possible, and I think these are the kinds of things I've recommended to my students.

First, for extroverted students. If you're someone who likes meeting people and talking to them, and you have family members or friends around you who speak the language you're learning, you should definitely make use of them. It's free, right? You can practice speaking for free! You might as well take advantage of it. Of course, you might feel a little guilty thinking that you're using them, but hey, it's okay. They probably want to communicate with you too, and they can use the language they're learning with you as well, right? Think of it as a win-win situation for both of you. If you think that makes you selfish... well, then you're never going to get any practice at all. In that case, you might as well pay for conversation classes.

And if you're thinking, "I don't have any family or friends around me who speak the language I'm learning," do you know how good language exchange apps have become these days? Try using different language exchange apps like Tandem or HelloTalk to find someone you really click with, someone whose personality and style match yours, and try to communicate with them fairly regularly, even if it's not every single day.

Personally, I... don't hate HelloTalk, but there are quite a lot of creeps on there, so I didn't really use it much. But there's an app called Tandem, right? I met a really great person there who I really clicked with. And it turned out that they even lived in the same area as me, so we were able to meet in person. We still meet up pretty often!

And another great thing about Tandem is that you can look up words you don't know as you're messaging someone. You don't have to waste time copying and pasting everything separately to translate it. And once you get to know your language partner a little better, you can even set up a video call. If that feels a little too intimidating, I think you can communicate perfectly well just by texting, too.

And especially for those of you who live in Seoul, there are so many language exchange meetups in Seoul. There are really, really a lot of them. There are especially lots of language exchange groups for people who want to learn English. Since you can actually meet people in person, why not check if there are any language exchange meetups or groups in your area and try going once a week? You can have a meal with them, go to a café, have a drink, and naturally learn the language while making new friends.

But if you're an introvert, don't you feel a little overwhelmed just hearing all of that? Don't worry. There are plenty of ways for introverted students to practice speaking for free, too. Especially these days, AI and ChatGPT have become so advanced. They're really good now. So make the most of ChatGPT.

Of course, it might not feel as friendly or natural as talking to a real person, but you don't have to worry about the pressure of actually meeting someone and talking to them, right?

And another great thing about ChatGPT is that you can give it a prompt like, “This is what kind of person I am, and this is the kind of conversation I want to have. I want you to correct me whenever I make a mistake and give me other natural ways to express myself.” Then it can have a conversation with you according to the style you want and give you the kind of feedback you're looking for. In some ways, you might even get more accurate and detailed feedback than you would from talking to another person.

I'll share a ChatGPT prompt that I made myself later, so you can find it on my website.

And for those of you who are more introverted, I also highly recommend joining an online program where you can practice speaking every day. For example, I have a program that I run regularly called the **30-Day Speaking Challenge**. You record and upload a short, about one-minute speaking video whenever you have time—every day, or five or six times a week. Then you get weekly feedback from a professional teacher. From me, actually.

That way, you can naturally practice speaking every day and improve your speaking skills without the pressure of having to actually talk to someone face-to-face. And because you're also getting more accurate feedback, your speaking skills are bound to improve.

I've received lots of feedback from students who participated in this challenge and saw real results, so I can confidently recommend this program. I especially recommend it for students who don't have much time. If you're busy, you can simply record something little by little whenever you have some free time, so I think it's a really great way to practice.

Now, some of you might be thinking, “So if I just practice speaking like this, that's enough, right?” Nope. Your speaking skills don't improve just by speaking. If you want to speak naturally and accurately, practicing writing is also really, really important.

One of the biggest advantages of writing is that you can actually see your mistakes with your own eyes. And then you can fix them. When you're speaking, you might think, “What did I just say? Was that expression wrong? Did I make a mistake?” But unless someone points it out to you, you often don't even realize it and just move on. Writing is different. When you write something and read it over again, you might think, “Hmm, this expression sounds a little strange.” Then you stop and think about it again and try to fix it.

This process has a huge impact on our brains. Going through the process of thinking about something and then correcting it helps you organize your thoughts. And when does that become useful? Later, when you're talking about a similar topic, your brain has already thought about it before, and you've already used those kinds of expressions. Your brain remembers that, I'm telling you.

And when you're writing a diary, you have much more time than you do when you're speaking, so you can look up words you don't know in a dictionary while you're writing. This is also a huge help when it comes to expanding your vocabulary.

When you're speaking, if you suddenly come across a word you don't know or can't remember, you can just stumble through it, use a different word, or simply leave it out and keep the conversation going. But when you're writing, you actually have to look up those words yourself. So you end up learning words that you didn't know or couldn't remember all over again. Your vocabulary is bound to grow.

So keeping a diary is really, really helpful. I'm saying this because I've experienced all of this myself, had my students try it, and actually seen the results. And writing is something that anyone can practice, regardless of whether you're an extrovert or an introvert, or what kind of personality or learning style you have.

But if you're thinking, "I'm not confident that I can keep practicing speaking or writing regularly every week. I need someone to push me and give me feedback, otherwise I won't be able to do it," I actually have two online programs that I'm running this time. I highly recommend joining one of them.

The first program is the **30-Day Speaking Challenge** I mentioned earlier. This round of the 30-Day Speaking Challenge will run from **September 1st to September 30th**, for a total of 30 days. Ideally, you'll record and upload a short speaking video every day, or five or six times a week, whenever you have time.

I'll give you feedback on your mistakes, including mistakes with vocabulary, grammar, or pronunciation. I can give you written feedback or audio feedback.

That's not all. I'll also provide speaking topics for all 30 days. So if you're not sure what to talk about, you can use these topics to practice speaking.

And if there's a word you don't know or a word you want to learn during the challenge, I'll also give you an AI dictionary prompt using ChatGPT that I've created. You can ask ChatGPT about the words and practice with it, too. I especially recommend this challenge for students who don't feel confident speaking.

The second program is the 6-Week Booster Writing Club. It's a six-week writing club for students who want to practice writing. It will run from **September 21st to November 2nd**, for a total of six weeks.

In the Writing Club, there will be a daily journal section where you can write about your everyday life. There will also be topic journals, where you can write about media you enjoy, such as movies, books, or TV shows.

And if you don't know what topic to write about, I'll upload a Writing Pack every week with different topics, along with useful vocabulary and expressions related to each topic.

Of course, you'll also receive detailed feedback on your writing. And an important part of this Writing Club is that you'll rewrite your work based on the feedback I give you. You'll also receive feedback on your revised writing.

So you get to practice making sentences while also expanding your vocabulary. It's basically killing two birds with one stone.

Anyway, if any of you are interested in signing up for the Speaking Challenge or Writing Club, you can register on my website, so make sure to check it out. Oh, and there's also an early-bird discount period, so be sure to check the dates and hopefully sign up at a lower price.

Anyway, thank you so much for coming back to listen to my episode today. What about you guys? Do you have any other good ways to practice speaking or writing? If you have any tips of your own, leave them in the comments. Let's share our ideas with each other.

I hope you all have a great rest of the week, and I'll see you again in the next episode. Bye!

Ppyong!