

**THE IMPORTANCE OF FORMATION OF LIFE SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES**

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Abstract

The article "The Importance of Formation of Life Skills in English Language Classes" explores the integration of essential life skills into English language teaching, highlighting its significance in modern education. It emphasizes that language classes are not limited to linguistic competence but serve as platforms for developing crucial life skills such as communication, critical thinking, collaboration, adaptability, and empathy. The article outlines strategies for incorporating these skills, including project-based learning, role plays, debates, reflective writing, and authentic materials. It also discusses the broader benefits of this approach, including enhanced student motivation, holistic development, and better preparation for real-world challenges and future careers. By fostering these skills, English language classes contribute to the overall growth of students, making them more capable and adaptable in both personal and professional contexts.

Keywords: Life skills, English language teaching, communication skills, critical thinking, collaboration, adaptability, empathy, project-based learning, role plays, reflective writing, holistic development, real-world challenges, student motivation, language proficiency.

Introduction

In today's dynamic and interconnected world, the role of education extends beyond the mere acquisition of academic knowledge. Schools are now tasked with preparing students to face complex real-life challenges by fostering essential life skills such as communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork. Once primarily focused on grammar and vocabulary, English language classes have evolved into spaces where students can develop these vital abilities. As language is a fundamental tool for communication and interaction, English language teaching (ELT) provides a natural platform for nurturing skills crucial for academic success and personal and professional growth. This article explores how life skills can be effectively developed in English language classes and why their integration is essential for preparing learners for the demands of the modern world.

Education is not solely about imparting academic knowledge in today's rapidly changing world. It also focuses on developing crucial life skills that help students navigate personal, social, and professional challenges. English language classes, traditionally seen as avenues to teach linguistic competence, have evolved into platforms for fostering essential life skills. Integrating life skills in English language teaching (ELT) is crucial as it enhances language proficiency and prepares learners for real-world situations. This article explores the importance and methods of forming life skills in English language classes.



Life skills are a set of abilities that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. These skills include communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, adaptability, and empathy. English language classes provide an excellent opportunity to nurture these skills because language is a tool for communication and expression, which lies at the heart of many life skills.

Nobody can deny the importance of Communication Skills. Since English is a global language, mastering it opens doors to cross-cultural communication. Language classes naturally promote listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, which are key components of effective communication. Students practice articulating ideas, expressing emotions, and interacting with others, thus enhancing their interpersonal skills.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving are also the skills that should be bolstered. Language learning is more than memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules; it involves critical thinking. When students analyze texts, participate in debates, or solve language puzzles, they are sharpening their problem-solving abilities. English classes that incorporate discussions on real-world issues also prompt students to think critically and formulate reasoned opinions.

For the prosperity of the nation and the whole country, the development of Collaboration and Teamwork in schools is also one of the important tasks of modern teachers. Group activities such as role plays, discussions, and project-based learning foster collaboration. Students must work together, share ideas, and negotiate to achieve common goals. These activities mirror real-world situations where teamwork is often essential. Here it is appropriate to note that when explaining grammar, particularly indirect speech in English, teachers find it difficult to convey the structure, and in turn, students have difficulties in mastering it. It is possible to explain the topic by suggesting the situations when indirect speech is used. For example, situation No1 “When parents do not talk to each other, and use their child to deliver their message”, situation No2 “Gossips. Let the cat out of the bag”, situation No3 “Deaf granny and grandchild watch TV program”, situation No4 “News program. Briefly, to the point!”

In the age of rapid changes, it is vital to be adaptable and flexible. Also, learning a new language requires adaptability. Students must adjust to new ways of thinking and expressing ideas. Additionally, through exposure to different cultures and perspectives in English language materials, learners develop open-mindedness and flexibility in thought and action, which are invaluable life skills.

Such skills as Empathy and Emotional Intelligence are the skills that are preferred to boost as, while learning the language and piece of literature one should feel the inner pain of the author. Language classes, especially those focusing on literature and storytelling, promote empathy by helping students understand diverse viewpoints and experiences. By engaging with characters from various cultural and social backgrounds, learners develop emotional intelligence, learning to appreciate and respect differences. It is also relevant to note here that for many years, even decades, the problem of inclusive education has been neglected in our country. Children with physical disabilities were taught separately, and this had serious consequences not only for them but also for children in public schools. For example, children with disabilities were bullied or mocked by their peers. In a society where people with special needs are not taken seriously and do not try to understand their pain and interests, one cannot count on empathy. No secret that in our country not all residential complexes are still adapted for people with physical features. But the situation started to change when the President of the country paid attention to the issue,



and now that decisive changes and cardinal reform of education are taking place, inclusive education is included in the curricula of the education system. It will give children the opportunity to face the problems and feel the pain of others, to see the other point of view, and if possible, to help. This will help us to educate conscious people who will work for the good of the motherland and humanity as a whole.

The integration of life skills into English language classes offers numerous benefits, such as **Holistic Development**. Learners not only improve their language abilities but also grow as individuals capable of handling various life challenges. This holistic approach prepares students for future academic and career success.

When students see the practical relevance of what they are learning, they are more motivated to participate. Engaging with real-world problems and working on meaningful tasks enhances students' interest in language learning. It appears that the approach increased motivation also.

Dew to the fact of formation of life skills that developed in the classroom, the Social and Emotional Well-being of the students is improved. By developing skills such as empathy, collaboration, and emotional intelligence, students build stronger relationships and better emotional health. This creates a positive and supportive classroom environment.

Better Preparation for the Workforce happens in the students' minds by fostering life skills since childhood. Many of the life skills taught in English language classes, such as communication, teamwork, and adaptability, are highly valued in the job market. Students equipped with these skills are better prepared for the demands of the modern workplace.

Taking everything said above into consideration, it could be concluded, that the formation of life skills in English language classes is a vital aspect of modern education. By integrating communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and other essential skills into language learning, educators can help students not only achieve linguistic competence but also succeed in real-life situations. English classes thus become a space for holistic development, preparing learners for both academic and personal challenges. Ultimately, the focus on life skills in English language teaching leads to more confident, capable, and adaptable individuals ready to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

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