

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING BBC LEARNING ENGLISH ON TEACHING STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS

Muhammad Fathan Mubina<sup>1</sup>, Yanti Sri Rezeki<sup>2</sup>, Wardah<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Universitas Tanjungpura

Correspondence email: [f1022201011@student.untan.ac.id](mailto:f1022201011@student.untan.ac.id)

### Abstract

This study was carried out at SMPN 7 Sungai Raya, focusing on eighth-grade students, with the main goal of improving their speaking abilities. The research used a pre-experimental approach, which included a pre-test and post-test to measure the effectiveness of BBC Learning English in enhancing students' speaking skills. A total of 27 students from class 8D participated in the study. The pre-test involved an oral exam where students' speaking skills were assessed before any intervention took place. After the pre-test, students received lessons that incorporated materials from the BBC Learning English platform. The post-test, which followed a similar format to the pre-test but with different questions, was given to evaluate the improvement in students' speaking abilities after the treatment. The results revealed a significant improvement in the students' speaking skills. The average score on the pre-test was 34, considered a poor score, while the post-test average rose to 72, categorized as good. This positive change was further supported by the statistical analysis, where the t-test value (12.3657) exceeded the t-table value (2.060), confirming that the difference between the pre-test and post-test scores was statistically significant. As a result, the alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ), which suggested that BBC Learning English would improve students' speaking skills, was supported, and the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was rejected. In conclusion, the findings suggest that BBC Learning English is an effective tool for enhancing students' speaking skills. The considerable increase in post-test scores highlights the positive impact of the platform. The study recommends incorporating BBC Learning English in language learning environments, as it offers interactive and engaging content that encourages students to practice and improve their speaking abilities. Furthermore, integrating such resources into the curriculum could help students gain more confidence and skill in using English for everyday communication.

**Keywords:** Speaking Skills, BBC Learning English, Teaching

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilakukan di SMPN 7 Sungai Raya, dengan fokus pada siswa kelas delapan, bertujuan utama untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara mereka. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan eksperimen awal, yang melibatkan pre-test dan post-test untuk mengukur efektivitas BBC Learning English dalam meningkatkan keterampilan berbicara siswa. Sebanyak 27 siswa dari kelas 8D berpartisipasi dalam penelitian ini. Pre-test berupa ujian lisan untuk menilai keterampilan berbicara siswa sebelum diberikan perlakuan. Setelah pre-test, siswa menerima pelajaran yang menggunakan materi dari platform BBC Learning English. Post-test, yang memiliki format serupa dengan pre-test namun dengan soal yang berbeda, diberikan untuk mengevaluasi peningkatan kemampuan berbicara siswa setelah perlakuan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan peningkatan yang signifikan dalam keterampilan berbicara siswa. Skor rata-rata pada pre-test adalah 34, yang dianggap rendah, sementara skor rata-rata pada post-test meningkat menjadi 72, yang dikategorikan baik. Perubahan positif ini semakin diperkuat dengan analisis statistik, di mana nilai uji t (12.3657) lebih besar dari nilai t-table (2.060), yang menunjukkan bahwa perbedaan antara skor pre-test dan post-test signifikan secara statistik. Oleh karena itu, hipotesis alternatif ( $H_a$ ), yang menyatakan bahwa BBC Learning English dapat meningkatkan keterampilan berbicara siswa, diterima, dan hipotesis nol ( $H_0$ ) ditolak. Kesimpulannya, temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa BBC Learning English merupakan alat yang efektif untuk meningkatkan keterampilan berbicara siswa. Peningkatan yang signifikan pada skor post-test menyoroti dampak positif dari platform ini. Penelitian ini merekomendasikan untuk mengintegrasikan BBC Learning English dalam lingkungan pembelajaran bahasa, karena menyediakan konten yang interaktif dan menarik yang mendorong siswa untuk berlatih dan meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara mereka. Selain itu, mengintegrasikan sumber daya seperti ini dalam kurikulum

*dapat membantu siswa menjadi lebih percaya diri dan terampil dalam menggunakan bahasa Inggris untuk komunikasi sehari-hari.*

**Kata kunci:** Keterampilan Berbicara, BBC Learning English, Pengajaran

## INTRODUCTION

Effective communication is very important in today's world, and learning English, as a global language, helps people communicate across different cultures. Students should focus on mastering the four main skills of English: reading, speaking, listening, and writing. Among these, speaking is often considered one of the most important skills for communication. Teachers recognize the importance of using different media in the learning process to keep students engaged and improve their learning. In particular, audio-visual media has been shown to be very effective in enhancing speaking skills.

Speaking in English is especially important in today's connected world. Utami, Regina, and Wardah (2015) mention that speaking is a key way to interact with people in society. Ferstephanie and Pratiwi (2019) highlight that speaking helps people exchange ideas, thoughts, and knowledge, which is an essential part of communication. Chotimah and Pratiwi (2022) argue that speaking is one of the most crucial skills in learning English, and proper pronunciation is an important part of it. Nair and Yunus (2022) also stress that speaking in English is essential for students to learn, as it is a necessary tool for real-world communication. Zhen and Hashim (2022) say that mastering English, including speaking, has become a top priority for learners because it supports both education and career growth. Siswanto, Apriliaswati, and Wardah (2023) explain that when students speak fluently, they can participate more actively in classroom discussions, creating a lively learning environment. Lestari (2021) mentions five important aspects of speaking: comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency. Masbiran and Fauzi (2017) describe these aspects further, including accent, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension, which all contribute to effective speaking skills. Purnamawati, Sofian, and Suhartono (2015) argue that learning a language isn't just about understanding the rules and words; it's about learning how to communicate. It's important to focus on how we speak to make sure others can understand us.

Using the right media and teaching methods is crucial in learning English, especially when it comes to speaking. Therefore, it's important to evaluate the effectiveness of different media and

teaching strategies to make the learning process better. Different methods can improve students' speaking skills in various ways, especially in schools like SMPN 7 Sungai Raya. One effective approach is using BBC Learning English, which has been shown to help students improve their speaking skills.

Norvin (2024) suggests that the BBC Learning English channel is a good resource for teaching English, especially speaking, because it offers a variety of content that works for different learning styles. Indriyani, Sukarni, and Triana (2021) agree, stating that BBC Learning English provides free audio, video, and text resources to students worldwide, helping people learn English all over the world. Tazkiyah (2019) also found that the BBC Learning English channel improved students' pronunciation, showing its effectiveness as a learning tool. Research by Megasari (2020) also found that BBC Learning English is helpful because it increases students' motivation to learn English, which is key to language learning.

In addition to these findings, Bradcha and Djendi (2021) highlight that using BBC Learning English podcasts and other audio resources can improve both accuracy and fluency in speaking English. Abdi and Makiabadi (2019) explain that using BBC Learning English involves activities where students listen to long English podcasts and practice mimicking the speaker's way of speaking. This helps improve their pronunciation and fluency. Imran and Sulviana (2022) found that using BBC Learning English was a helpful way to teach speaking skills, especially for vocational high school students, and led to improvements in their English speaking. Kuning (2020) explains that BBC Learning English helps teachers with simple English conversations, making it easier for students to practice real communication. Abdelhadi and Boukhelif (2023) also discuss how speaking skills can be improved by using BBC Learning English podcasts in a well-planned way, with different speaking activities in multiple lessons. This focused approach helps students become more confident and skilled at speaking English.

Based on the information above, the authors hope that using BBC Learning English will help both teachers and students communicate well in English. It's clear that BBC Learning English has many benefits that can greatly improve students' speaking skills. Therefore, the main question is: "Is BBC Learning English effective in teaching speaking skills in English?"

By using BBC Learning English, teachers can provide students with an engaging and active learning experience. The wide variety of content available on the platform, including podcasts, videos, and texts, lets students practice speaking in different situations, improving their vocabulary,

pronunciation, and fluency. Furthermore, the use of real-world examples and interactive activities encourages students to actively participate in their learning, leading to a deeper understanding of the language. With the help of BBC Learning English, students can improve their speaking skills and feel more confident when communicating in English, both in school and in real life.

In conclusion, speaking in English is very important, especially in today's globalized world where communication is key. Teachers need to use effective strategies to help students develop their speaking skills, and using media like BBC Learning English can be a great way to do this. By using this platform, students can improve their speaking abilities, gain more confidence in their communication skills, and become more proficient in English. Therefore, BBC Learning English is a valuable tool for teaching speaking skills, and it should continue to be used in classrooms to help students become better communicators in English. Based on the above explanation, the authors hope that BBC Learning English will help teachers and students speak English properly. The research question is: "Is BBC Learning English effective in teaching speaking skills in English?"

## **METHOD**

This research is a type of pre-experimental study. According to Creswell (2018), pre-experimental designs are used when a researcher wants to see if there is a connection between two variables or if a specific treatment affects a group. This design is common in educational and social research, where it is hard to set up controlled experimental conditions.

Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2018) explain that pre-experimental research is especially helpful for exploring ideas, forming hypotheses, and doing preliminary studies where the researcher has little or no control over the independent variable. In this kind of research, one group is tested before the treatment (pre-test), then receives the treatment, and finally takes another test (post-test) to check for any changes.

In this study, the pre-experimental design was used to look at how effective BBC Learning English is in improving students' speaking skills. By comparing the pre-test and post-test results, the study aimed to see if there was a significant improvement after using BBC Learning English. Even though there was no control group, this design still offers valuable information about how the treatment might impact students, making it a good choice for this research. The results add to the growing understanding of how digital learning tools can be

effective in teaching languages.

Pre-test	Treatment	Post-test
O <sub>1</sub>	X	O <sub>2</sub>

Description

- O<sub>1</sub> : Pre-test
- X : Treatment, i.e. learning with using the flipped classroom model
- O<sub>2</sub> : Post-test

This pre-experimental research was carried out in three main steps: pre-test, treatment, and post-test. The goal of these steps was to assess the students' English-speaking skills before and after using BBC Learning English. The pre-test was given to measure the students' speaking ability at the start, while the treatment phase involved using BBC Learning English as a learning tool. The post-test was given afterward to check if there were any improvements in their speaking skills.

The main data collection method used in this study was the pre-test and post-test. These tests were designed to collect data about the students' speaking performance. By comparing their scores before and after the treatment, the study aimed to find out if BBC Learning English was effective in improving their speaking skills.

The study took place at SMPN 7 Sungai Raya during the 2024/2025 school year. The population of the study included all eighth-grade students at SMPN 7 Sungai Raya, and the sample was chosen from class 8D. This class was selected to represent the larger student group and provide a focused evaluation of the effectiveness of BBC Learning English.

For data collection, an interview was used as an oral test to assess students' pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and overall speaking skills. The interviews provided a more detailed evaluation of the students' speaking abilities compared to traditional written tests.

For data analysis, the study used quantitative methods. The pre-test and post-test results were compared using statistical tools, such as mean scores and t-tests, to see if there was a significant improvement in the students' speaking abilities. This approach helped ensure accurate measurements and provided solid evidence on the effectiveness of BBC Learning English in improving the students' speaking skills.

## FINDINGS AND DATA DISCUSSIONS

The research findings focus on analyzing the students' scores from the speaking test,



which was given as an oral test to assess their speaking skills. The main goal of the study was to evaluate how effective BBC Learning English was in improving the students' speaking abilities. To do this, the research followed three main steps: pre-test, treatment, and post-test. These steps were important in determining if using BBC Learning English made a real difference in the students' speaking performance.

The pre-test was given before the treatment phase to assess the students' initial speaking abilities. This test helped gather information about their skills in pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and speaking clarity. By conducting the pre-test, the researcher could identify the areas where students had difficulties before they started using the BBC Learning English program.

During the treatment phase, students participated in various activities using BBC Learning English. The platform offered interactive exercises, listening materials, and pronunciation practice aimed at improving their speaking skills. After the treatment, the post-test was given to see how much progress the students made. Comparing the results of the pre-test and post-test helped determine if BBC Learning English was effective in improving the students' speaking skills.

Table 1. The results of pre-test

Test	N	Max	Min	Sum	Mean	SD
Pre-Test	27	84	20	916	34	20,5575

Based on the table 1 above, the maximum score of student's pretest was 84 and the minimum score of student's pre-test was 20. On the other hand, the total score of pre-test was 916 and mean score of pre-test was 34. The standard deviation of pre-test was 20,5575.

Table 2. The results of post-test

Test	N	Max	Min	Sum	Mean	SD
Post-Test	27	92	60	1932	72	9,3040

Based on the table 2 above, the maximum score of student's pretest was 92 and the minimum score of student's pre-test was 60. On the other hand, the total score of pre-test was 1932 and mean score of pre-test was 72. The standard deviation of pre-test was 9,3040.

### Picture 1. The Calculating of T-Test and T-table

$$D = \frac{\sum D}{n} = \frac{1016}{27} = 37,629$$

The calculation of t-test

$$t = \frac{D}{\frac{\sqrt{\sum D^2 - \frac{(\sum D)^2}{N}}}{N(N-1)}} = \frac{37,629}{\frac{\sqrt{44786 - \frac{(1016)^2}{27}}}{27.26}} = \frac{37,629}{\frac{\sqrt{44786 - \frac{1032256}{27}}}{702}} = \frac{37,629}{\frac{\sqrt{44786 - 88231,7}}{702}} = \frac{37,629}{\frac{\sqrt{44786 - 88231,7}}{702}} = \frac{37,629}{\frac{\sqrt{6504,3}}{702}} =$$

$$\frac{37,629}{\frac{\sqrt{9,265}}{3,043}} = \frac{37,629}{3,043} = 12,3657$$

To find out the (Df) dependent sample:

$$Df = N - 1$$

$$= 27 - 1$$

$$= 26$$

Since the calculated t-value (12.3657) is higher than the t-value from the two-tailed t-table (2.060), the researcher rejects the null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>). This result shows that there is a significant difference in students' English skills before and after using BBC Learning English. At a 5% significance level, this means the treatment had a noticeable effect on the students' speaking skills. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (H<sub>a</sub>), which suggests that using BBC Learning English improves students' speaking ability, is accepted.

The study clearly shows that using BBC Learning English in the classroom is effective, especially in improving students' speaking skills. The noticeable difference between the pre-test and post-test results shows that students made significant progress after using BBC Learning English. Before the treatment, many students struggled with pronunciation, fluency, and confidence when speaking English. However, after using BBC Learning English, they were able to express themselves more clearly and fluently.

There are several reasons why BBC Learning English was effective in improving speaking skills. First, the platform offers interactive and engaging content that encourages students to

practice speaking in real-life situations. It includes audio and video materials that help students learn native-like pronunciation, intonation, and sentence structures. By listening to and repeating English from authentic sources, students improve their pronunciation and fluency. Second, the lessons and exercises in BBC Learning English help students build their vocabulary and sentence construction skills. This boosts their confidence when speaking in English.

Besides, using BBC Learning English in the classroom makes learning more fun and dynamic. Traditional teaching methods often rely on textbook exercises, which may not always engage students fully. But with digital tools like BBC Learning English, the learning process becomes more interactive, encouraging students to participate in speaking activities. This increased engagement likely played a part in the improvement seen in students' speaking skills, as shown in their post-test results.

In conclusion, the study shows that BBC Learning English is an effective tool for teaching speaking skills. The significant improvement in students' speaking performance suggests that digital learning resources can be a valuable addition to traditional teaching methods. These results suggest that educators should consider using BBC Learning English or similar platforms to improve students' speaking skills and overall language learning.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study aimed to explore how effective BBC Learning English is in helping students improve their speaking skills. The research involved three main steps: a pre-test, a treatment phase using BBC Learning English, and a post-test. The main goal was to find out if the use of BBC Learning English had a positive impact on students' speaking abilities, especially their pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary.

The study started with a pre-test, which was given to students before they started using BBC Learning English. The purpose of this test was to measure their speaking skills at the beginning of the study. It focused on how well they could pronounce words, how fluent they were, and how well they could use different words in their speech. This gave a clear picture of the students' starting point, and it helped identify areas where they might need improvement.

Once the pre-test was complete, the students then moved on to the treatment phase. During this phase, they used BBC Learning English to practice their speaking skills. The platform offers a wide range of interactive content, such as listening exercises, pronunciation guides, and various activities to help students practice speaking. The lessons were designed to keep students engaged

and motivated, making learning more fun and less like a traditional classroom experience. The students were exposed to authentic English content, such as audio and video clips, that helped them understand how native speakers use the language in real-life situations.

After using BBC Learning English, the students took a post-test. The goal of this test was to measure whether there were any improvements in their speaking skills after the treatment. The results of the pre-test and post-test showed clear progress. Students became more fluent in their speech, pronounced words more accurately, and used a wider range of vocabulary. Many students who initially struggled with speaking in English, especially with pronunciation and fluency, showed noticeable improvements. Their ability to express themselves more clearly and confidently was a key outcome of the study.

To analyze the data, the researcher used statistical methods. The t-test results showed that the difference in scores between the pre-test and post-test was statistically significant. The calculated t-value (12.3657) was higher than the critical value (2.060), which meant that the improvements in students' speaking skills were not random. This confirmed that BBC Learning English had a real effect on the students' speaking abilities. Because of this, the alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ), which suggests that BBC Learning English improves students' speaking skills, was accepted.

The results suggest that BBC Learning English is an effective tool for improving students' speaking skills. Several factors contribute to its success. First, the platform offers interactive lessons that encourage students to practice speaking in a way that feels natural and relevant to real-life situations. By listening to audio and watching videos with native speakers, students learn how to pronounce words properly and use English in realistic contexts. These activities help improve their pronunciation and fluency.

BBC Learning English also provides exercises that help students build their vocabulary and improve sentence construction. This is important because the more words students know and the better they can use them, the easier it is for them to express themselves clearly. As a result, students became more confident in their ability to speak English, and their vocabulary and sentence structure improved. The structured lessons allowed students to gradually build their skills, which made learning feel less overwhelming.

Another key factor in the success of BBC Learning English is that it is more engaging than traditional teaching methods. In many classrooms, teaching speaking skills can be difficult.

Teachers often rely on textbook-based exercises or memorization, which may not fully engage students. However, BBC Learning English offers a variety of content that keeps students interested. The interactive lessons encourage students to actively participate, which leads to better learning outcomes. The use of digital tools makes the process more dynamic, allowing students to practice speaking more effectively.

In addition, BBC Learning English helps create a more enjoyable learning environment. Many students find traditional language learning boring, especially when it comes to speaking practice. But with the use of BBC Learning English, students were able to practice their speaking skills in a more relaxed and enjoyable way. The lessons are designed to be fun, and they offer a variety of activities that keep students engaged throughout the process. As a result, students were more motivated to continue learning, and their overall speaking abilities improved.

The study also highlighted the importance of confidence when learning to speak a new language. Many students were hesitant or nervous about speaking in English before using BBC Learning English. However, after using the platform, they became more comfortable and confident in their ability to communicate. This increase in confidence was key to their improvement, as students were more willing to participate in speaking activities and interact with others in English. Confidence is a crucial factor in language learning, especially when it comes to speaking, and BBC Learning English helped foster this confidence.

In conclusion, this study shows that BBC Learning English is an effective tool for improving students' speaking skills in English. The significant improvements observed in the students' speaking abilities between the pre-test and post-test indicate that the platform had a positive impact. Teachers should consider using BBC Learning English or similar digital platforms in their classrooms to enhance students' speaking skills. The engaging and interactive nature of the platform provides a fun and practical way for students to learn, which makes it an excellent supplement to traditional language learning methods. By using BBC Learning English, students can improve their pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and overall confidence in speaking English. Based on the results of this study, it is clear that digital tools like BBC Learning English can play a vital role in helping students become better speakers and more confident communicators in English.

## REFERENCES

- Abdelhadi, A., & Boukhelif, N. (2023). The role of BBC Learning English podcasts in developing speaking skills among EFL learners. *Journal of Namibian Students*, 35(1). <https://doi.org/10.59670/jns.v35i.3297>
- Abdi, S., & Makiabadi, H. (2019). Learning English listening and speaking through BBC VOA Podcasts: An app review. *Teaching English with Technology*, 19(2), 101-108.
- Bradcha, D., & Djendi, K. (2021). Enhancing EFL learners' oral skills through the use of BBC Learning English podcasts as a home practice tool: The case of second year scientific learners of Abdel Hak Ben Hammouda Secondary School. *University of Mohamed Boudiaf*.
- Chotimah, C., & Pratiwi, S. J. (2022). The use of Cake application on students' speaking skill in English for specific purposes (ESP). *Lingua*, 18(1), 60–70. <https://doi.org/10.34005/lingua.v18i01.1851>
- Cohen, L., Manion, L., & Morrison, K. (2018). *Research methods in education* (8th ed.). London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315456539>
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). Amazon.
- Ferstephanie, J., & Pratiwi, T. L. (2022). The effect of TikTok platform to develop students' motivation in speaking ability: A classroom action research. *Wiralodra English Journal*, 6(1), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.31943/wej.v6i1.147>
- Imran, M. C., & Sulviana, S. (2022). Using BBC web-based learning courses to improve vocational high school (VHS) students' speaking skill. *EDULEC: Education, Language, and Culture Journal*, 2(1), 94–100. <https://doi.org/10.56314/edulec.v2i1.34>
- Indriyani, S. N., Sukarni, S., & Triana, J. (2021). Segmental Features Contained in BBC Learning English Video: Word in the News. *Scripta: English Department Journal*, 8(1), 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.37729/scripta.v8i1.807>
- Kuning, D. S. (2020). Applications of social media to learn speaking. *Edukasi Lingua Sastra*, 18(1), 77-85.
- Lestari, Y. (2021). EFL students' speaking ability in descriptive text. *Concept: Community Concern for English Pedagogy and Teaching*, 7(1), 45–52. <https://doi.org/10.32534/jconcept.v7i1.1821>

- Masbirran, G., & Fauzi, A. (2018). SPEAKING SKILL IN USING COMMUNITY LANGUAGE LEARNING (CLL). *Indonesian Journal of Integrated English Language Teaching*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.24014/ijielt.v3i2.4844>
- Megasari, D., & Fatmawati, N. L. (2020). Using BBC Learning English video to improve students' simple past tense mastery in writing recount text of X grade at SMA N 1 Nogosari in the academic year 2020/2021. *IAIN Surakarta*.
- Nair, V., & Md Yunus, M. (2022). Using digital storytelling to improve pupils' speaking skills in the age of COVID-19. *Sustainability*, 14(15). <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14159215>
- Norvin, M. A. (2014). An analysis of BBC Learning English application for English language teaching. *UIN Antasari*.
- Purnamawati, S., Sofian, S., & Suhartono, L. (2015). The use of role play in teaching speaking. *Universitas Tanjungpura*.
- Siswanto, F., Apriliaswati, R., & Wardah. (2023). Designing transactional conversation videos as supplementary materials to support teaching English speaking skill: A design and development research to the second semester students of EESP of Universitas Tanjungpura in academic year 2021/2022. *Universitas Tanjungpura*. <https://doi.org/10.58526/jsret.v2i2.86>
- Tazkiyah, T. (2019). Using YouTube channel "BBC Learning English" to improve students' pronunciation: An experimental research at the seventh grade of SMPN 21 Kota Serang. *UIN SMH Banten*.
- Utami, N. D., Regina, R., & Wardah, W. (2015). An analysis on students' effort to improve speaking skill. *Universitas Tanjungpura*. <https://doi.org/10.26418/jppk.v4i3.9337>
- Zhen, L. S., & Hashim, H. (2022). The Usage of MALL in Learners' Readiness to Speak English. *Sustainability*, 14(23), 16227. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142316227>