Helpful hints for Improving your language expression (speaking and writing)

It is important to remember what the main objective of writing and speaking is, i.e. to communicate your ideas and your experience to someone else.

Think about the type of expression you want to work on. Do you need to check any grammar rules or pronunciation first? Do you need to look up any words in the dictionary or ask someone how to say it?

It can be very useful to look at the answer sheet before you do a task if you are trying to learn something new, rather than testing if you can do it already. Also, it will help you to assess what you have done, so that you can try the exercise again to see if you can do it better.

Sometimes you will find it useful to find activities which allow you to:

- Have real communicative objectives, e.g. role-play (where you have to act out a scenario with someone else)
Or give a one-minute talk about something you know well. You can adapt and use the pattern in your own context to say what you want and in the order in which you want to say it.

Repeat ready-made dialogues so that you can work on pronunciation and intonation.

Practice drills which can help you learn to produce grammatically-correct sentences, or to use certain expressions.

Repeat the activity, but in a slightly different way, e.g. imagine you are speaking to a different person, or go into more detail or write in a different style (such as formal and informal).

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You are freest when you are alone and can choose to say what you want, so you could practice by “talking to yourself”. Think of a person to whom you could talk or write. This way, you can practise what you know and come to realise what you can’t yet express. This can guide you in your future choice of language study. It is something you can do anywhere, at any time, e.g. at the dentist, walking down the street, on the bus, or while looking at the newspaper.

You can repeat an exercise and ask yourself “How good am I?” or “Do I know how to do it?” Then you can decide whether you want to prepare more for a similar situation in the future, and/or if you will allow yourself to make a mistake or not.