

INNER CIRCLE MAY

#05/ 2024

innovative LANGUAGE.COM

WELCOME TO THE INNER CIRCLE

This is the monthly, no-holds-barred series giving you tried and tested learning methods to help you reach your language goals this year.

Last month, you learned how to get your language skills assessed — by yourself or with a teacher. Meaning, you're not just learning and forgetting (as most people are), but you get to practice and retain what you've learned and know where your language stands.

This time? Speaking. How does one learn and practice speaking...? Truth is, most don't. Which is why speaking is the weakest skill for all learners. The good news? There is a powerful way to master speaking — even if you're learning on your own.

How to use this PDF: This PDF provides you with tips, takeaways, and resources mentioned in the lesson. You can review it for a quick recap after watching the video.

**THE BEST WAY TO PRACTICE
SPEAKING & THE 5 TIPS YOU CAN
TRY RIGHT NOW**

So, how can you practice speaking... even if you're on your own?

There is a way... and chances are, you've done it at one point or another without knowing there was a name for it.

And if you knew that it was an actual, powerful technique, you would have used it more often.

The technique is called "shadowing."

Shadowing is simply repeating what you hear as you hear it. So, if you hear someone say a phrase, you repeat it out loud.

This is the simplest and most direct way to speak... and you don't need a teacher or a native speaker for it. You just need to be able to listen to your target language and repeat — whether it's with our lessons, songs, TV shows, and so on.

Now, the benefit of it is obvious — you learn to speak by mimicking native speakers. Instead of trying to sound out words yourself, as one would do when they read a new word, you listen to actual native speakers and repeat.

And with enough practice, you develop the confidence to speak without thinking or struggling.

Shadowing also indirectly helps listening because you have to listen and actually process what you hear before repeating. It would be impossible to repeat if you didn't understand what you heard.

So, how do you apply shadowing? Should you just shadow anything?

TAKEAWAYS FOR YOU

Before we go into the 5 specific tips... you'll need to keep in mind that...

1. Learning actually consists of 2 stages (well, actually more, but we'll keep it simple here.) There is #1: Taking in new information (input or consumption), and #2: Practice (output or production). Most people often mistake #1 for learning... and then wonder why they forget everything.

If you just consume and "take in new information" and don't do the practice, you won't learn.

Which is why many people struggle with language.

So, every time you pick up new information (whether reading, listening, or watching) — that alone is not enough for learning. You need to practice. Learn and practice. Learn and practice. Learn and practice.

And that's what shadowing helps you to do. Heard a new word? Shadow it. Say it out loud. Produce it.

2. For every minute of learning, you should spend 3 minutes on practice.

3. You can shadow just about anything - song lyrics, tv show dialogues, and so on. But, the best approach would be to shadow the lesson dialogues in our program. The lesson dialogues are level-appropriate so that you're not overwhelmed by super fast speaking... and these are lines you'll want to know for everyday interactions.

Having said that...

Here's how you can apply shadowing with our learning system.

1. Use the Line-by-Line Audio Dialogue Tool

You'll find the Line-by-Line Audio Dialogue in every lesson — just below the lesson player.

This tool breaks down lesson dialogues into individual lines. That way, you can play and review each line one at a time, instead of getting overwhelmed with the whole conversation.

Just press play on the audio icons next to each line to hear and shadow the lines. You can also click on the microphone icon (Pronunciation Practice tool) to record your voice and compare it with the native speakers.

Dialogue - English

Main

All

A: Hey, Vicky!

B: Hi, Mike! How's it going?

A: Great! How about you? How are you doing?

B: Not so good.

A: Oh no! What's wrong?

B: Oh, classes start tomorrow.

A: Ha ha ha. Yeah, I know what you mean.

2. The Vocabulary Section of the Lesson

Below the Dialogue, you'll find the Vocabulary section... which gives you the key vocab presented in the lesson.

Just like with the Line-by-Line Dialogue, you can practice shadowing the words as well.

Vocabulary (Review)

Hide

☐

☐	How's it going? (American) an expression to ask about someone's health or situation	2 EXAMPLES ▾
☐	all right (American) okay; to one's liking; acceptable	1 EXAMPLE ▾
☐	How are you doing? (American) an expression to find out about someone's health or situation	1 EXAMPLE ▾
☐	great (American) very good	2 EXAMPLES ▾

3. Shadow on the Go: App & Podcasts

If you're out on the go, you can use our App - [Innovative Language Learning](#) - to listen to the lessons and shadow with the aforementioned tools.

You can also check out our lessons on Podcast platforms like Spotify.

4. Shadow with Video & YouTube

With audio, you only get to hear the language... especially if you're shadowing with Spotify.

But with video, you can see the dialogue on screen and follow along.

You can do this with the video lesson on our sites and on our YouTube as well.

5. The brand new Dialogue Role-Play Tool

Dialogue - Japanese

[Hide](#)

New! Take part in the dialogue!

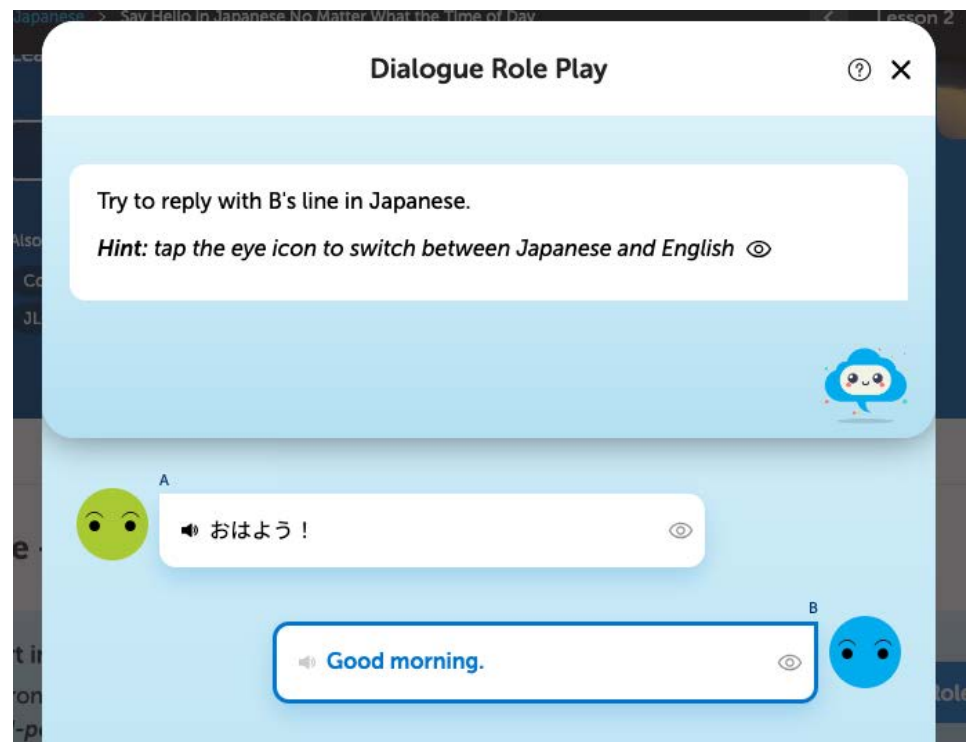
Practice your pronunciation, try your own responses and get custom feedback with our new *AI-powered* Dialogue Role Play feature.

[Launch Dialogue Role Play](#)

This is a brand new study tool that we haven't formally announced...

But you can find it in some of our lessons.

You'll be able to role-play the lesson dialogue and shadow the lines as well.



So these are the five tools you can try right now to practice the technique called shadowing.
Have you tried shadowing before?

LET US KNOW.

Shoot us an email at inner.circle@innovativelanguage.com

See you next month!