



# Language Laboratory: Communication Skills

Dr. Amol Bute

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Gaya College of Engineering, Gaya Bihar, India  
Email: [buteamolr@gmail.com](mailto:buteamolr@gmail.com)

Received: 30 Mar 2022; Received in revised form: 15 April 2022; Accepted: 19 April 2022; Available online: 24 April 2022  
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**Abstract**— *Language lab is essential according to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for technical institutions. Language lab provides the scope to the students to improve their communication skills with the help of the technology. The present study aims at finding out whether language lab activities help the budding engineering students of Bihar to improve the communication skills along with the confidence in expressing the ideas or thoughts at any platform. Results show that the use of language lab helps the engineering students in language skills enhancement, if students do the regular practice.*

**Keywords**— *Language Lab, Listening Skills, Speaking Skills, Reading Skills, Writing Skills.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Four years stay of the engineering students in the respective departments of the college and their involvement in various activities helps the teacher to observe their problems like stage fear, problem in expression, lack of confidence, writing the script of the program, reading the introduction of the guests etc. These are the common problems in the Engineering Colleges and if these problems are neglected, the employability skills and ultimately placement of the students will be hampered. Confidence in communication skills is the base of successful professional career. Employable engineers have huge opportunities in the engineering job market. Communication skill is the main component of employability skills. Engineering colleges, specially, Training and Placement Officer puts much effort to organize the placement. Many times companies are interested to hire the fresher Engineers but they get disappointed with the performance of the students in the form of soft skills, especially in the form of clear expression of the ideas which are in their mind.

This study aims at answering the questions

1. Is language laboratory useful in teaching communication skills to the Engineering Students of Bihar?

2. Do language lab activities help the student to gain the confidence in Communication Skills?

Thus, the study assumes that the language lab activities will probably improve the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills to the engineering Students of Bihar and boost the confidence among them while using English language as a tool for communication skills.

## II. RATIONAL FOR THE STUDY

Students Induction Program, according to the AICTE mandates, have been organized in Gaya College of Engineering, Gaya which provided the opportunities to analyze the status of the soft skills of the newly admitted students for Engineering courses practically. As a part of this program, Diagnostic test for English was conducted by the department of English. The test was designed in such a way that the language components required for the improvement of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening are to be evaluated. In the evaluation of this test it is found that the students have sufficient knowledge of grammatical entities. 81 students were participated in this test out of which 69 students scored more than 50. Apart from the formal diagnostic test, the students were evaluated on practical base by involving them in various activities like anchoring of the program, interacting with the guests,

preparing the short introduction of the guest, giving introduction of the invited guests, giving the welcome speech, expressing vote of thanks and so on. As the duration of the program was 21 days, near about all the participating students had more or less opportunities to come forward. Observations of the student's involvement convinced that the students were facing the stage fear, problem in expression, lack of confidence, writing the script of the program, reading the introduction of the guests etc. which are needed to be improved.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Buchanan and MacPhee (1928), Bagster-Collins, (1930) state that from 1893, there were commercial record sets available in Spanish and English as a foreign language, but phonograph was only used in regular classes and for self-study at home. Later, it started by teaching of mathematics, science and foreign languages in America's schools by 1958, but Derthick (1965), and Hocking (1967), had first launched in 1957 and then in 1958 by the military organizations. Later, Leon (1962), Peterson, (1974) & Saettler (1990) state that the first lab was established at the University of Grenoble in 1908 (P. 187). Brink (1986), Church (1986) Huttchinson (1964) and Vanderplank (1985) agreed with Hayes 1963 that "the language laboratory works and produces better results than would be possible without it...[which]....probably does not need documentation" (as cited in Hocking,1967,p.61). Otto (1989) pointed out, "the computer is a powerful tool for the language laboratory (p.39). Delcolque, et al, (2000) adds that the first audio device welcomed in the phonograph and have immediately adopted other advances in audio technology such as magnetic tape and digital media.

Parker (1962) defines the language laboratory is: "an area containing equipment designed to facilitate second/foreign language learning" (p.67). The Webster's New World College Dictionary defines language laboratory as "a classroom in which students learning a foreign language can practice sound and word patters individually or under supervision with the aid of audio equipment, etc". Cesar (2006) defined language laboratory as: "...a teaching tool requiring the implementation of well-constructed tasks based on the students 'needs'". Beder (2008) in defining language laboratory stated: "A Language Laboratory is a room in a school, college, training institute, university or academy that contains special equipment to help students learn foreign languages by listening to tapes or CDs, watching videos, recording themselves. etc"

So far, to the best knowledge, all the research conducted on Language Lab have indicated a positive response from

the students. None of the research has focused on taking into account the study of Gaya college of Engineering, Gaya. Bihar.

### IV. METHOD

The present research has been carried out in Gaya College of Engineering, Gaya which is a Government Engineering college run by Department of Science and Technology, Bihar and affiliated to Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna. There are four engineering branches in this college named Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science & Engineering. The college has many laboratories to perform the practical of the respective branches.

Apart from branch wise laboratories, College has a well-equipped language lab with 30 computers which are linked with LAN and internet facility, a licensed software, Television, camera, podium and other necessary things. Other than first year, other students of the college can use language lab to learn and develop their communication skills. For first year of first semester students of Computer Science & Engineering branch and Electronic & Electrical Engineering Branch has the special timing for the language lab in their time table. For the experiment, the students of these two branch have been made the participants.

As the language lab has the special software with huge study materials for listening Skills, Reading Skills, Speaking Skills and Writing Skills, a separate course have been designed by not only including most appropriate activities and study material from the software but also from different sources for the research. The help has also been taken from the faculty members of the college in this matter. For listening skills, the ear training activities by playing the videos based on News, Presentation, Advertising, Grooming and Group discussions, special worlds, etc. have been included. For taking care of writing skills the study material based on how to write essay, writing on experience of Induction Program, Grooming, Advertisement, News Writing, editing the given contain, Does and Don'ts of Group Discussion, If you were\_\_\_\_\_. have been included. To improve the Reading skills, the pdf and slides based on the information about Grooming, Advertisement, Newspaper, paragraphs from the books, interview questions and answer have been given the priorities. For the development of speaking skills, the activities of giving self-introduction, sharing experience of Induction Program, presentation on Grooming and Advertising, participation in Group Discussion and giving the summary of the News have been included.

For the implementation of the planned activities, the time slots allotted for the English Practical subject have been used. In the college time table of the First Semester 2022-23, the time slot 02.00 PM to 05.00 PM on Monday and 02.00 PM to 05.00 PM on Wednesday has been dedicated to the Electrical & Electronics Engineering and Computer Science & Engineering respectively. The sessions have been running smoothly for three months (January to March 2022). Students are highly enthusiastic to attend these sessions. They gave their dedicated participation in every activity specially in the group discussion, speeches, presentations, writing activities, news listening, news reading etc.

## V. FINDINGS

After given above said duration's training for the improvement of Communication Skills in the language lab to the participants or the students of CSE and EEE, at the end, the feedback form was circulated among the participants to get the information about the progress in terms of communication skills. 51 students / participants of Computer Science & Engineering (47.1%) and Electrical & Electronics Engineering (52.9%), all are from First Year (2021-25 batch), submitted their feedback out of which 11.8% are females and 88.2% are male. In the feedback form, various types of questions had been asked to get the proper information about the satisfaction of the participants.

After analyzing the collected feedback, the surprising data came up. 98% of participants attended the language lab sessions and 02% participants recorded the opinion that they did not attend the sessions. 41.2% participants are strongly agreeing that the language lab activities improve their speaking skills. 52.9% participants are agreeing, 02% participants are disagreeing and 03.9% participants can't say. 45.1% participants are strongly agreeing for the language lab activities have helped them to improve the listening skills. 51% participants are agree for the point but 02% participants are disagree and 02% participants cannot decide. 41.2% and 51% participants are in the group of Strongly agree and agree that the language lab activities have been helpful them to improve the Reading Skills. 6.9% participants cannot decide and 02% participants are disagree. 39.2% and 54.9% participants have opted strongly agree and agree groups by admitting that the conducted activities have helped them to improve their writing skills and 6.9% participants cannot have decided.

On the basis of communication skills, some questions have been asked through the feedback form. According to the data, 39.2% participants and 54.9% participants are strongly agreed and agree that the reading speed and

understanding capacity have been increased due to the activities conducted by using the language lab but 5.9% participants are neutral on this matter. 25.5% participants and 62.7% participants are admitting (strongly agree & agree) that conducted activities have helped them writing logically and coherently but 11.8% participants are in the group of undecided and disagree. 29.4% and 58.8% participants (88.2% participants) have opted Strongly agree and agree category respectively by admitting that the Conducted activities have helped them writing syntactically correct but 9.8% participants cannot have decided and 02% participants are disagree to this point. 43.1% and 39.2% participants are strongly agree and agree respectively to the statement that the conducted activities have helped to improve the participant's pronunciations. 17.7% participants have opted neutral option on this point. 47.1% Participants and 43.1% participants have opted strongly agree and agree option when they have been asked whether the conducted activities have helped to gain the confidence in Communication Skills but 09.8% participants are neutral. 25.5% participants and 54.9% participants are combiningly admitting that the conducted activities have helped them to improve the vocabulary but 19.6% participants have accepted the neutral and disagree option.

When the participants have been asked about the frequency of the usage of language lab, 88.2% participants said that Language lab should be always used to teach communication skills in the college for the Engineering Students but 11.8% participants were with the opinion that it should be used occasionally.

## VI. CONCLUSION

At the beginning, there were two aims of the present research. The first aim was "language laboratory is useful in teaching communication skills to the Engineering Students of Bihar". On the basis of above data (Para 2 of Findings), it can be said that 94.13% participants have admitted that the language lab activities have helped them to improve their communication skills. As these students are from Gaya College of Engineering, Gaya, all admitted and participated students are from Bihar only. Therefore, it can be said that language laboratory is useful in teaching communication skills to the Engineering Students of Bihar. The second aim of the present research was to find out whether language lab activities help the student to gain the confidence in Communication Skills. On the basis of above data (Para 3 of Findings) it can be said that 87.2% participants have given positive response. On the whole, it can be said that language lab plays the important role in

the development of communication skills of the engineering students.

## VII. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is to be carried out in one Engineering college of Bihar in which English subject has been taught only for the branch of Electrical & Electronics Engineering and Computer Science & Technology of First Year. Further study may involve all the students of the same college. Questions were asked only with the students and not the teachers.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I express my thanks to the Ministry of Education, Government of India for implementing TEQIP-III project due to which I got the opportunity to work in Gaya College of Engineering, Gaya Bihar and do this research. I am thankful to The Principal, Gaya College of Engineering, for providing the opportunity to organize the Student Induction Program which helped me a lot in the close study of the newly admitted students in terms of Communications skills. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all teaching and nonteaching staff of the department of English, Gaya college of Engineering for helping in this research. I express my thanks to the students of semester 1 of CSE & EEE for participating in this research and has given the feedback which has been utilized for this research. I am thankful to my son Chi. Adarsh and my wife Sau. Archana for providing the encouragement for this work.

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# Language Lab activities: Communication Skills

51 responses

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## Name of the participants

51 responses

Abhishek raj

Nitesh Kumar

Niranjan tiwari

RAHUL SHARMA

Vikash kumar

Shivam Kumar

Ritesh Mandal

JAY PRAKASH KUMAR

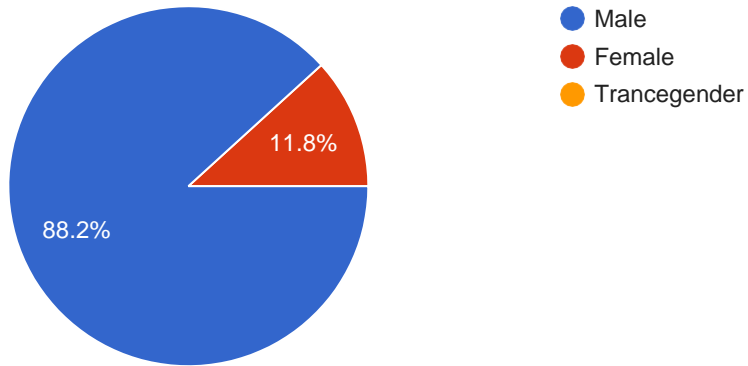
Isha



### Gender

51 responses

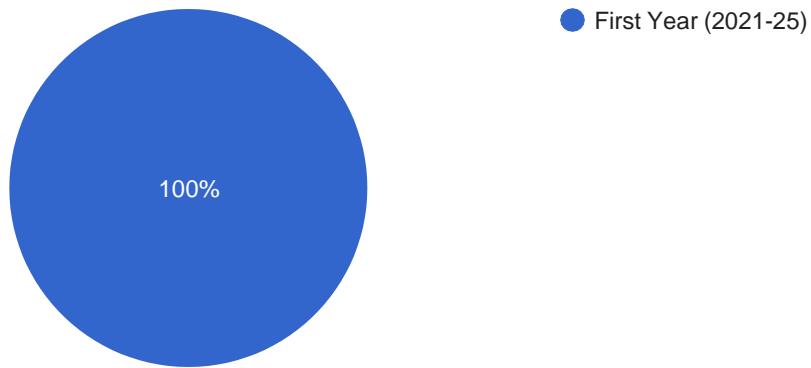
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### Year

51 responses

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### College Roll No.

51 responses

21-EEE-09

21-EEE-05

21-CSE-08

21-EEE-67

21-cse-26

21-CSE-23

21-CSE-56

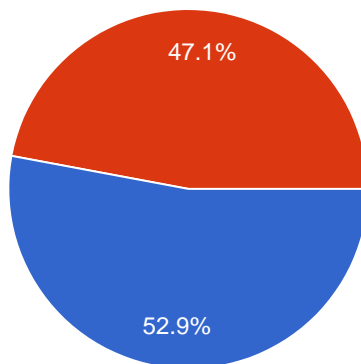
21-EEE-45

21-cse-62

### Name of the Branch you are studying

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51 responses



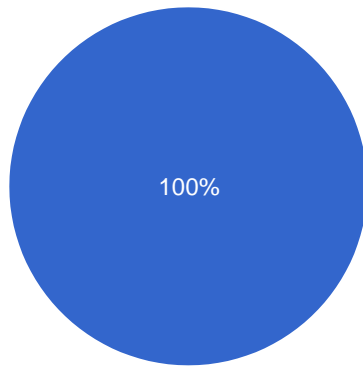
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering



### Name of the College

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51 responses



● Gaya College of Engineering, Gaya





## Mobile No. (Whatsapp only) only one

51 responses

8789000025

9082518255

8471962837

6203472272

8986994435

+919060634179

6204543732

7739953698

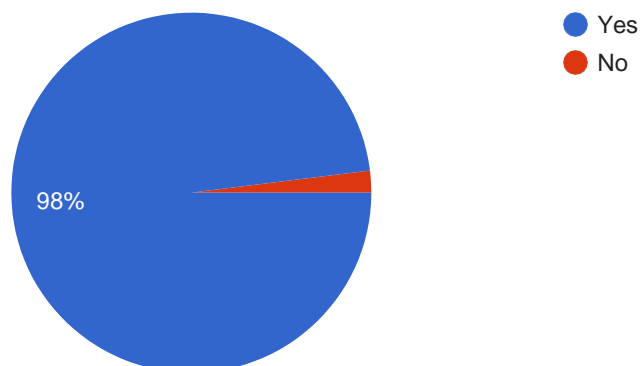
+917870082546

## Language Lab activities: Communication Skills

Have you attended language lab sessions in your college?

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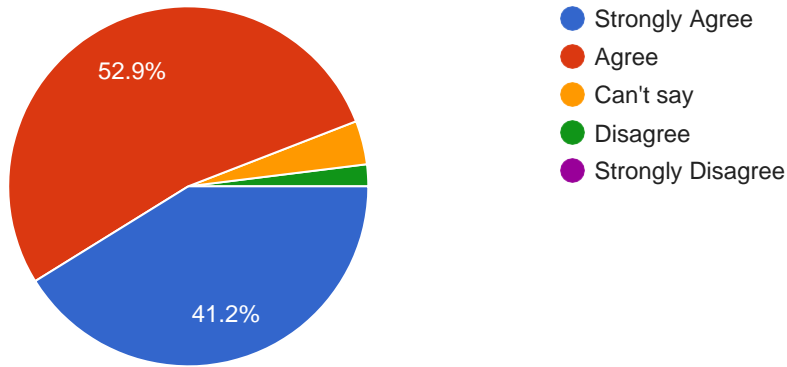
51 responses



### Activities conducted in language lab helped to improve your speaking skills

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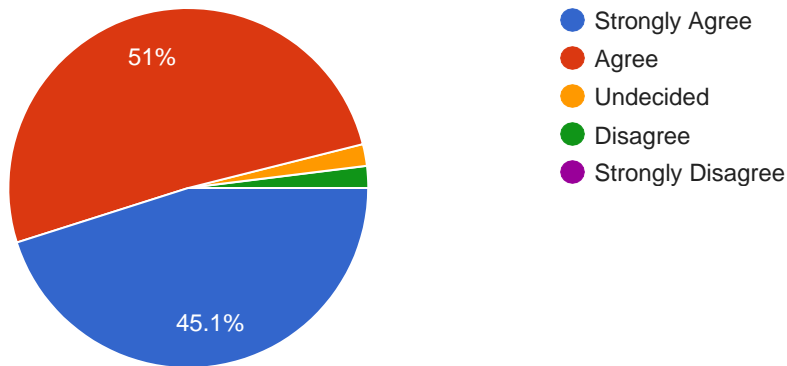
51 responses



### The language lab activities helped to improve your listening skills

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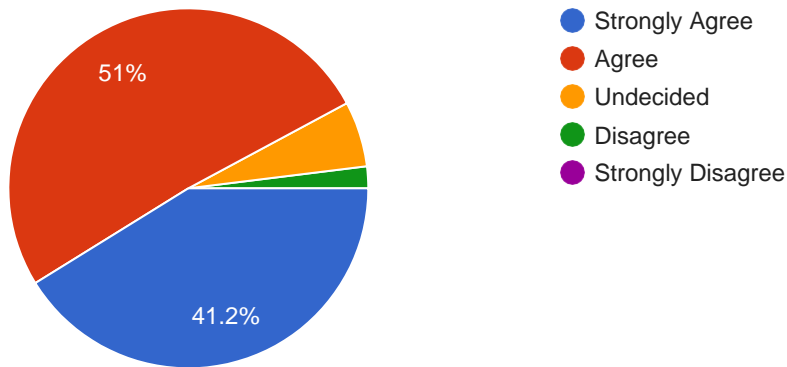
51 responses



Do you think that the language lab activities were helpful to improve your Reading Skills?

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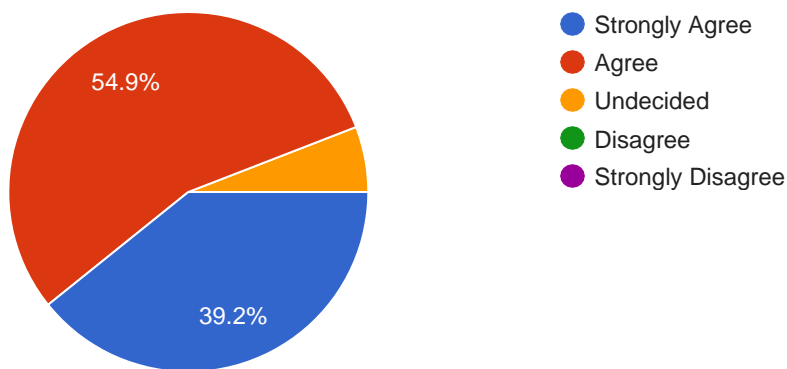
51 responses



Your reading speed and understanding capacity have been increased?

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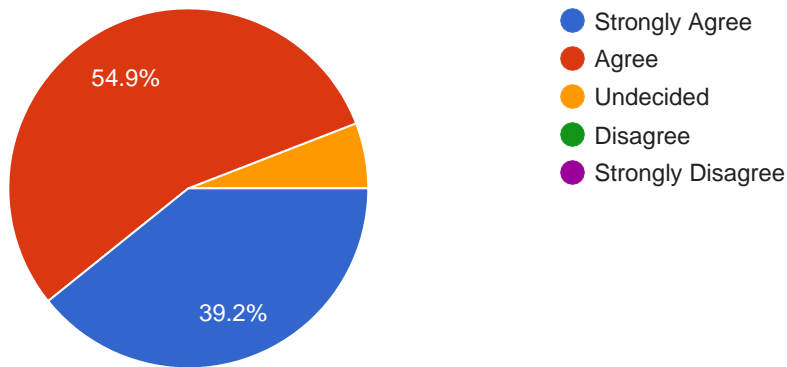
51 responses



Do you think that the conducted activities helped to improve your writing skills?

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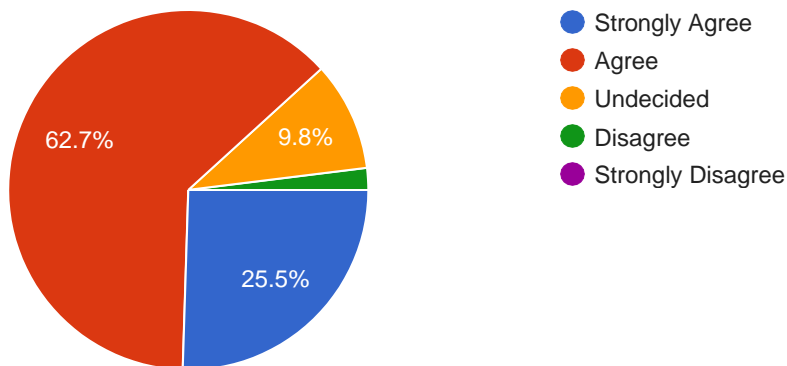
51 responses



Conducted activities helped to write logically and coherently.

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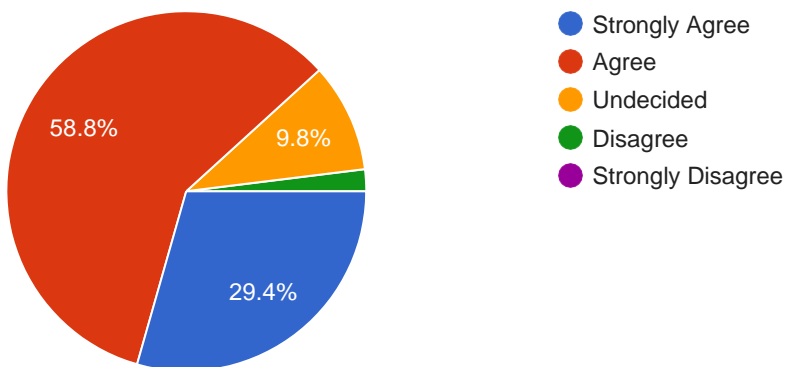
51 responses



### Conducted activities helped to write syntactically correct.



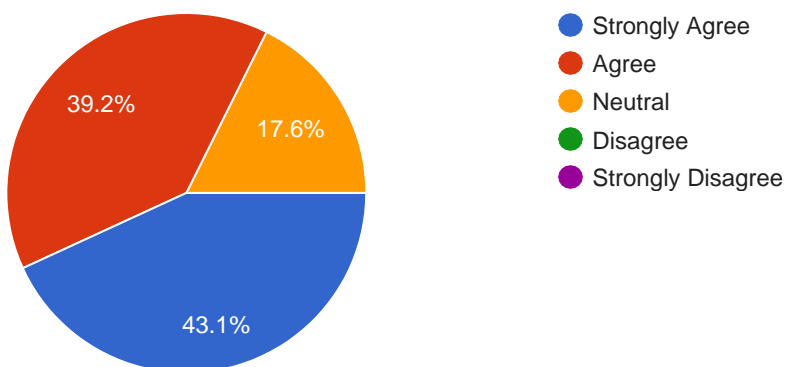
51 responses



### Activities helped to improve your pronunciations



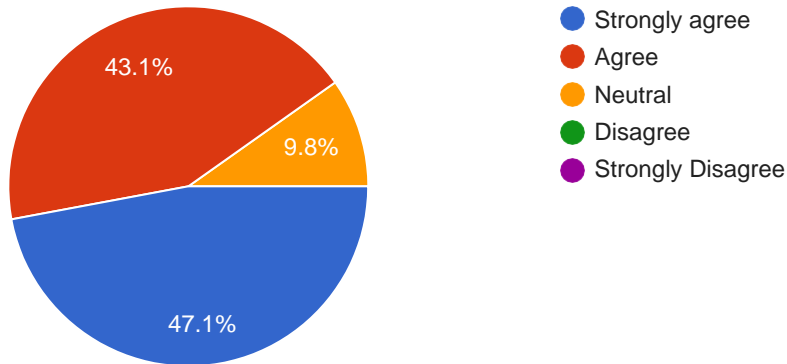
51 responses



### Activities helped to gain the confidence in Communication Skills

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51 responses



### Activities helped to improve the vocabulary

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51 responses

