

Spoken language, especially conversation, requires quick, almost instantaneous production and understanding. There is no time to prepare what to say in advance. We need to shape our message as we go along. That is why informal talk is characterized by pauses, fillers, false starts, repetitions, etc. which give us time to think. One need not use a complete sentence in order to make oneself understood-sometimes a word or two or even our facial expression and gesture will do.

The learner needs "to be able to talk intelligibly, using appropriate word stress. Some of the important language functions that the learner would need to perform at this stage are:-

Body Language [Context]

- greeting friends, superiors, strangers
- introducing self and others
- making telephone calls or answering them
- asking for or giving information
- asking for things in shops, counters and restaurants
- asking questions for clarification, advice or help
- expressing opinion or reactions to programmes, plays, books or films
- participating in discussions and debates
- giving, or receiving instructions
- describing things, places or persons narrating anecdotes, stories and discussing them carrying on sustained conversation with friends, family or strangers giving a report of an event

Check Your Progress 1

1. Suggest three more functions of the spoken language, which learners may require.

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2. What are the three aspects, which govern what we say? Give an example of an utterance to explain your point.

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3.3 INTERACTIVE AND NON-INTERACTIVE USE OF LANGUAGE

Of the various language functions mentioned in the previous section some require an interactive use of language like talking to friends, asking for things, asking for