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Suggested Practical Steps of Using the Cake Application to Improve English Learners' Speaking Skills

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Abstract

The ability to speak English remains essential in daily life, with language serving as a tool for conveying thoughts and ideas through speaking. The ways that English language learners practice their speaking skills are different from traditional learning, and many learners are also aware of the importance of developing English speaking skills for use in real-life conversational situations. Nowadays, modern learners have adapted to new learning methods by combining technological tools with traditional ones. They can use mobile applications for self-paced listening and speaking practice. One of the applications that has gained significant attention from language learners worldwide is the Cake application. It is an app for improving English speaking skills by listening to short video clips from YouTube, and it has an AI speech recognition system that evaluates the results of the learner's speaking practice and provides immediate feedback. To practice speaking, the learners need to 1) download the app and sign up, 2) select a speaking course, 3) engage in the speaking activities, and 4) receive pronunciation feedback.

This academic article aims to provide an overview of the Cake application, including the definition of the Cake application, its features and procedures, and recommend several strategies to improve English learners' speaking skills through its use. By understanding and following these steps and strategies, learners can maximize the benefits of the Cake application and enhance their English-speaking proficiency for future success.

Keywords: *Cake Application, Mobile Application, Speaking Skill, English Language Learning*

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Introduction

At present, English-speaking skills are very necessary for most learners in EFL contexts since its role has been recognized as an international language. Being proficient in English might benefit learners to have more opportunities both personally and professionally, by facilitating international collaboration and networking (Nyagah, 2023). In addition, English proficiency can enhance employability, since most employers worldwide value candidates with strong English communication skills, which are essential for effective interactions with international clients and colleagues (English Caffe, 2025). Moreover, English-speaking skills boost confidence, improve negotiation abilities, and increase mobility in the job market (Nyagah, 2023). In academic and professional settings, effective communication in English is crucial for expressing ideas clearly and understanding diverse perspectives (English Caffe, 2025).

However, to be proficient in speaking English is not easy for everyone, but it is possible for anyone to improve their Englis speaking skills. They can employ the advance in technology like using their mobile phone and connecting with English speaking apps and learn English and practice speaking English by themselves and at their own pace (Raj & Baisel, 2024). The success might depend on their control and discipline themselves, as consistent practice is key to language acquisition (Poomarin, Tiansoodeenon, Arsairach, & Meeprom, 2022). Furthermore, the selection of the effective app for learning and practicing speaking English is also considered the most important factor for the leaning success, as different apps offer varying levels of interactivity and feedback (Nushi, Fattahi, & Ebn-Abbasi, 2023). One popular application that has gained recognition for improving learners' speaking abilities is the Cake application, which has attracted the attention of many language learners worldwide. This app is particularly effective for improving speaking skills because its main feature is a speaking course. Cake provides unlimited access for users to practice speaking with a simulated conversational model featuring native speakers. Cake displays a snippet of a video or film, followed by the native voice of a speaker saying the word or sentence. Users can also learn pronunciation by recording their voice, and Cake provides immediate feedback. Studies have shown that this mobile application provides a beneficial platform for improving pronunciation and fluency by offering interactive conversations with native speakers, voice recording features, and personalized feedback (Chaniago, 2022). Research indicates that

Hatyai Academic Journal Vol. 23 No. 2 (May – August 2025)
วารสารหาดใหญ่วิชาการ ปีที่ 23 ฉบับที่ 2 (พฤษภาคม – สิงหาคม 2568)

351

learners using the Cake application experience increased motivation and confidence in speaking English, as they can practice at their own pace and select content that aligns with their interests and English proficiency levels (Fitria, Dwimaulidiyanti, & Sapitri, 2021; Kristanti, Herlina, & Hidayad, 2024). Additionally, the Cake's features, for instance, pronunciation assessment and role-playing, have been found to significantly improve learners' speaking performance, with studies showing a great impact on enhancing English speaking skills (Fitria et al., 2021; Chaniago, 2022). Overall, the Cake application offers a flexible and engaging mode to improve speaking skills, making it a valuable platform for learners' self-directed learning.

It can be seen that the Cake application is an effective online tool for learning English-speaking skills. Learners can practice speaking at their own pace, convenience and different proficiency levels. Thus, this article aims to provide knowledge about the definition of the Cake application, learning theories incorporated in the Cake application, its features and procedures, and recommend several strategies to improve English learners' speaking skills through the Cake application.

Definition of Cake Application

The Cake application is a Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL) tool that plays a significant role in enhancing English language skills, particularly speaking and listening. He (2018) stated that the Cake application has been proven to improve students' oral competence, particularly in speaking and pronunciation skills. It is also recommended for implementation as a mobile-assisted language learning tool to increase students' interest in learning to speak and improve their English-speaking skills. This is because the app offers fun facilities, provokes students' curiosity, and eliminates boredom when using it.

The Cake application is designed to help users learn English for everyday use through videos. The Cake's main features include video lessons that focus on situation-specific linguistic material, speech recognition to improve pronunciation, and interactive exercises that enhance vocabulary and fluency (Fitria et al., 2021; Momeni, 2022). Students appreciate the Cake for its ease of use and flexibility, allowing them to manage their own learning and practice English at their own pace and any time (Fitria et al., 2021; Amiruddin, 2023). The Cake application also boosts learners' motivation by providing a fun and engaging

learning environment, which is crucial for effective language learning (Putri, Ratminingsih, & Santosa, 2023). Overall, the Cake application is a valuable resource for language learners seeking to improve their speaking skills through immersive and interactive learning experiences. Moreover, the application is constantly updated, with the latest version being 5.8.0. The Cake application has received a rating of 4.9 and has been downloaded by 100 million users from various countries (Cake Corp., 2024).

Several academics claim that the Cake application helps promote students' English learning effectively. According to Hermawati, Abdul, and St Asmayanti (2023), the Cake application is an effective tool for improving students' pronunciation skills. Aqilah (2023) further stated that various applications are available today that can help students learn more effectively, with the Cake app being one such tool specifically designed for improving speaking skills. According to Hardiana and Lubis (2024), the Cake application helps develop English usage by allowing users to learn vocabulary and sentence patterns that can be effectively applied in everyday life.

Learning Theories Related to the Cake Application's Features

The effectiveness of the Cake application in improving learners' speaking skills can be understood through various learning theories that emphasize interaction, engagement, and practical application. The following are examples of some of the learning theories applied in the Cake application: social constructivism, communicative language teaching, task-based language teaching, motivation theory, and cognitive learning theory.

Social Constructivism: Rooted in Vygotsky's theory, social constructivism posits that learning occurs through social interactions and collaborative activities. The Cake application fosters this by providing authentic video content that encourages learners to engage in discussions and practice speaking in a context similar to real-life situations. This interaction enhances language acquisition by allowing learners to negotiate meaning and build confidence in their speaking abilities (Vygotsky, 1978; Simply Psychology, 2024).

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT): This approach focuses on enabling learners to communicate effectively and fluently in real-life situations. The Cake application aligns with CLT principles by offering practical vocabulary and phrases through immersive video lessons, which help learners develop their speaking skills in meaningful contexts

Hatyai Academic Journal Vol. 23 No. 2 (May – August 2025)
วารสารหาดใหญ่วิชาการ ปีที่ 23 ฉบับที่ 2 (พฤษภาคม – สิงหาคม 2568)

353

(Amiruddin, Razaq, Satriani, Widistari, & Khas, 2022). The emphasis on communication over rote memorization supports the development of fluency and accuracy.

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT): TBLT emphasizes the use of meaningful tasks as a central component of language learning. The Cake application incorporates tasks such as speaking exercises that require learners to produce language actively, thereby facilitating the development of their speaking skills through practice (Valdivieso-Arcos & Argudo-Serrano, 2022). This hands-on approach encourages learners to apply what they have learned in practical scenarios.

Motivation Theory: According to motivation theories, such as those proposed by Dornyei (2021), learner motivation significantly influences language acquisition. The engaging and gamified elements of the Cake application help maintain learner interest and motivation, which are crucial for effective language learning (Du & Quyen, 2023). By providing immediate feedback and rewards for progress, the app boosts learners' confidence and encourages consistent practice.

Cognitive Learning Theory: This theory suggests that learning involves mental processes such as thinking, memory, and problem-solving. The Cake application supports cognitive development by offering varied content that challenges learners to think critically about language use in different contexts. This engagement with content promotes deeper understanding and retention of vocabulary and phrases (Hayaramae & Worasurt, 2020).

The Cake application effectively utilizes these learning theories to enhance learners' speaking skills by promoting interaction, practical application, and motivation. By leveraging social interactions, communicative practices, task-based activities, motivational strategies, and cognitive engagement, the app provides a comprehensive platform for language learning.

Procedure for Using the Cake Application

The Cake application is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. As mentioned in the study by Octavianita, Fitri, Rafinazly, and Ihsan (2022), the following steps outline how to effectively start using the app:

1. Downloading and Signing Up

- Install the Cake application from your device's app store.
- Open the app and sign in using your Facebook or Google account.

- Alternatively, you can use guest mode, which allows limited access to free content without signing in.
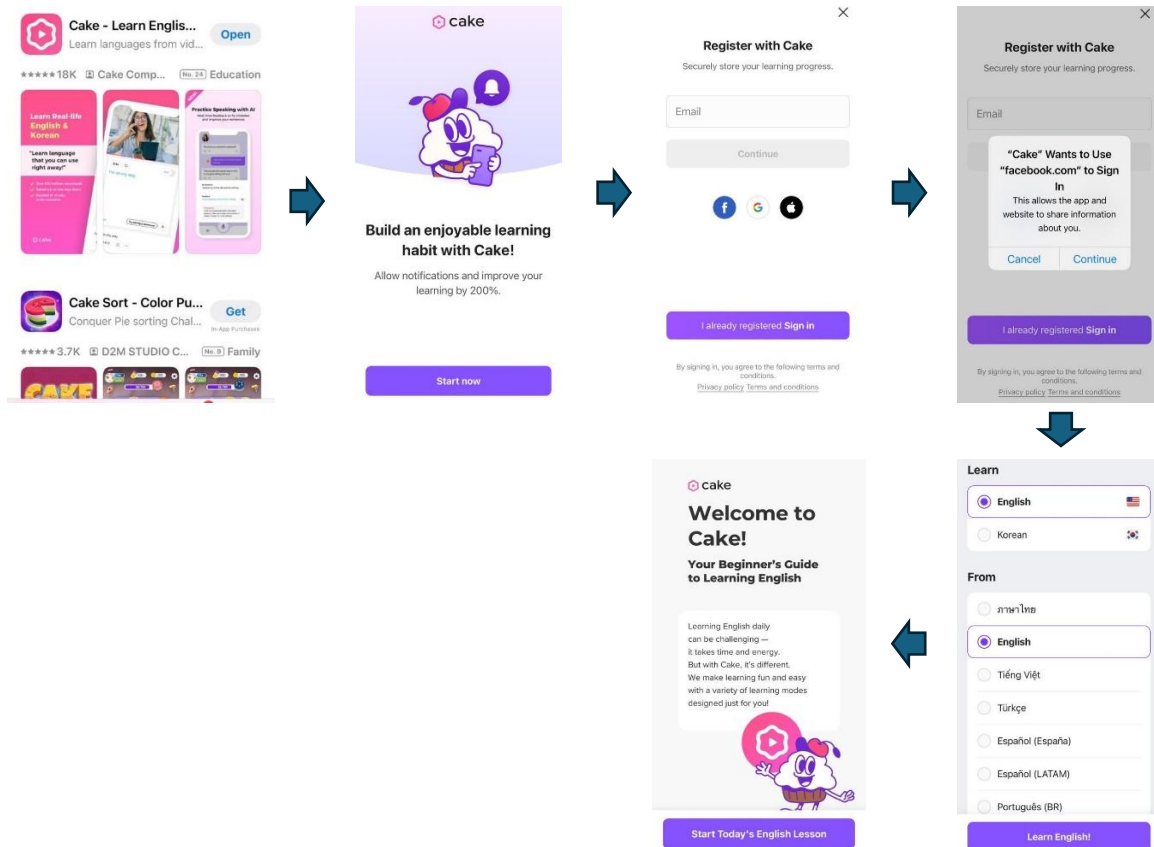
As shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Downloading and signing up

Source: Author's experiment with the application

2. Selecting a Speaking Course

- Upon signing up, you will receive 30 free coins, which can be used to access your first lessons.
- Select an episode or category that interests you. Each episode costs 10 coins to unlock.
- Choose a learning level that matches your proficiency:
  - o Basic
  - o Beginner
  - o Moderate
  - o High

Hatyai Academic Journal Vol. 23 No. 2 (May – August 2025)
วารสารหาดใหญ่วิชาการ ปีที่ 23 ฉบับที่ 2 (พฤษภาคม – สิงหาคม 2568)

355

- Or you can start from the basics. It is about understanding the sentence structure.
- Tap the microphone icon at the bottom of the screen to access the speaking courses.
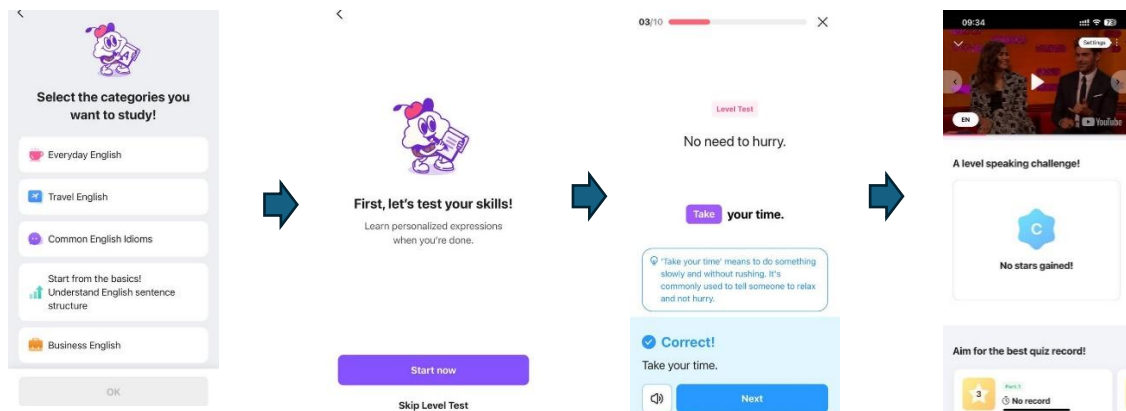
As shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Selecting a speaking course

Source: Author's experiment with the application

3. Engaging in a Speaking Course

- Begin by listening to a dialogue.
- You will then be prompted to repeat and respond based on what you heard.
- The app's speech recognition technology provides instant feedback on your pronunciation.
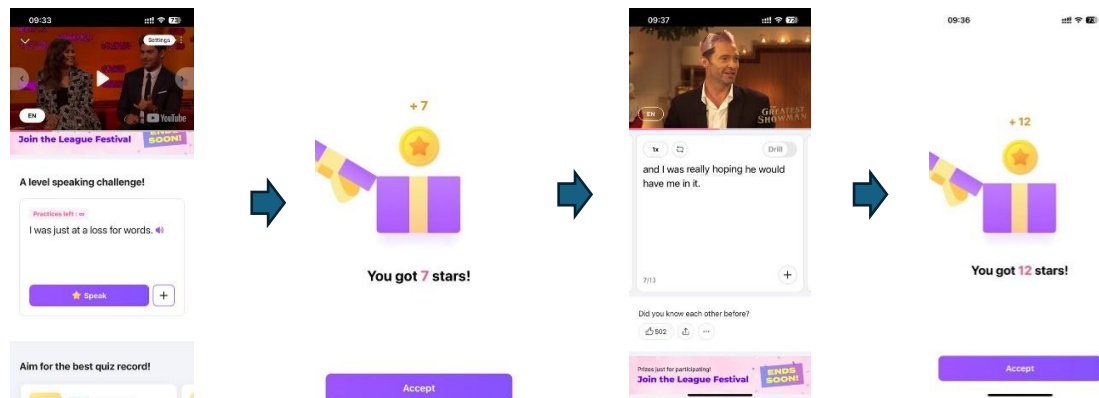
As shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Engaging in a speaking course

Source: Author's experiment with the application

4. Receiving Pronunciation Feedback

- If your pronunciation is correct, the app will display a correct mark and level indicators.
- If you mispronounce a word, it will be highlighted in red with a strikethrough.
- You can repeat the dialogue multiple times until you achieve accuracy.
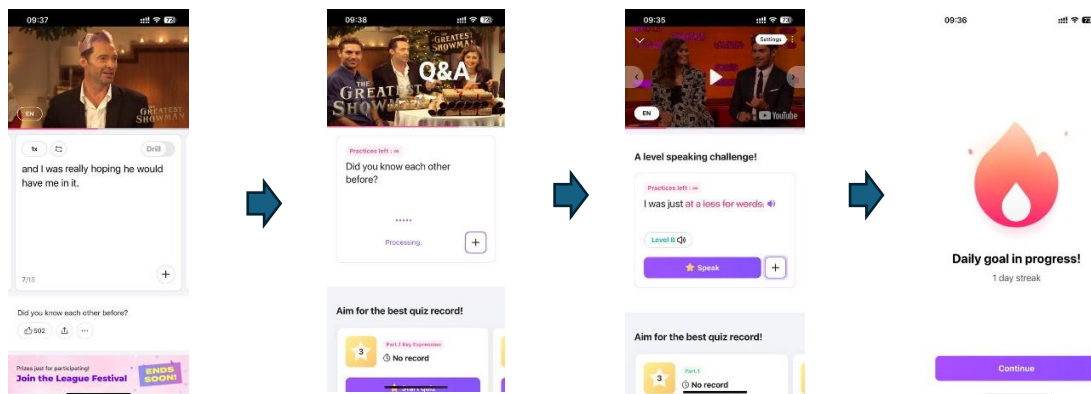
As shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Receiving pronunciation feedback

Source: Author's experiment with the application

Effective Strategies for Using the Cake Application to Improve English Learners' Speaking Skills

This section presents various strategies to help users effectively utilize the Cake application to improve their English-speaking skills. These strategies include:

1. Listen Repeatedly

According to Reshmi (2021), the first step in improving speaking skills is developing listening skills, as this helps learners grasp pronunciation, rhythm, intonation, and word linking in natural speech. The Cake application enhances this process through repeated listening by providing:

- Short video clips (e.g., movie scenes, cartoons) that allow learners to repeat phrases.
- Highlighted key phrases, which are repeated three times for better pronunciation practice.
- A playback feature that enables learners to replay sentences as many times as needed.

Hatyai Academic Journal Vol. 23 No. 2 (May – August 2025)
วารสารหาดใหญ่วิชาการ ปีที่ 23 ฉบับที่ 2 (พฤษภาคม – สิงหาคม 2568)

357

As noted by Dek-D (2020), learners could tap the speaker icon to replay words if they missed them the first time. This feature helps students become familiar with native speakers' accents and allows for unlimited review of spoken sentences.

2. Shadowing

Shadowing is a widely used language-learning technique where learners listen to an audio clip and repeat it aloud immediately, mimicking the speaker's pronunciation and rhythm (Torn, 2024). Two studies mention some examples of applying shadow practice the Cake application.

First, Farang Angmor (2020), an English tutor on YouTube, recommended using the Cake application for shadowing practice. Learners should:

- Play a video clip.
- Repeat the dialogue immediately after hearing it.
- Focus on imitating pronunciation and accent to develop fluency.

Second, Suryani, Nurinsani, Purnama, Hakim, and Nisa (2021) conducted a study on the Cake application's effectiveness in online learning. Their findings showed that all participants could easily imitate the instructor's speech and achieved high grades due to improved speaking fluency.

3. Speak through AI Speech Recognition

The AI speech recognition feature in the Cake application provides real-time feedback on pronunciation and fluency. If the learners are familiar with the use of AI Speech Recognition, they may get high benefits from the Cake application. Below are the steps to use AI Speech Recognition.

How to Use AI Speech Recognition:

1. Select an expression to practice.
2. Tap the microphone icon.
3. Listen to the native speaker's pronunciation multiple times.
4. Record your pronunciation.
5. The system evaluates and provides an instant score:
   - A – Perfect pronunciation.
   - B, C, or D – Mispronunciations, with red marks indicating errors.
6. Repeat the exercise multiple times to improve accuracy.

Lestari (2021) found that students benefited from the app's speech recognition, which allowed them to practice pronunciation with clear transcription, repetition features, and high-quality audio. The real-time feedback helped reduce anxiety about making mistakes.

4. Practice Speaking through Cake Features

The latest version (5.8.0) of the Cake application includes a variety of interactive features that enhance English-speaking skills. This article aims to introduce useful features, including daily expression clips, daily expression quizzes, daily conversations, and chat with Jake, as follows:

4.1. Daily Expression Clip

In this feature, short clips are updated daily so that students can learn new expressions through YouTube videos. YouTube is a popular online platform that includes a variety of interesting media such as educational content, TV shows, cartoons, movies, music, variety shows, etc. Most of the clips feature native speakers with various accents and ways of using words to communicate, including new vocabulary that students can learn and practice pronouncing like native speakers, correctly according to the principles of speaking and the context of various situations.

The clips are selected by the developers of the Cake application to be appropriate for students at each level and categorized to meet the interests of the students, making language learning easy and fun. This also inspires and motivates students to study language consistently without getting bored. This is supported by the results of research by Anggreini, Musiman, and Pratiwi (2023), who conducted a study on "Teachers' and students' perception on the use of Cake application toward their speaking skill in the Merdeka Belajar Era." The results revealed that most teachers and students agreed that the Cake application can help make the class more active and that they enjoyed and had fun while learning speaking skills. Furthermore, they agreed that the Cake application can foster their learning motivation.

4.2 Daily Expression Quiz

This feature is like a review of sentences or phrases that learners have already learned. They can take the test each day by using 1 heart to start the test. There are many types of tests, such as adding words to sentences, spelling words, and pronunciation tests.

Hatyai Academic Journal Vol. 23 No. 2 (May – August 2025)
วารสารหาดใหญ่วิชาการ ปีที่ 23 ฉบับที่ 2 (พฤษภาคม – สิงหาคม 2568)

359

The pronunciation test requires good memory and pronunciation skills. If learners complete all questions in the test, they will receive a gift of a certain number of stars based on the points they receive.

According to Octavianita et al. (2022), who conducted a study to find out students' English-speaking problems and improve their speaking skills through the Cake application at the 8th grade of SMP Islam Al-Wathoniyah Kab. Bekasi in the academic year of 2021/2022, the results showed that students' speaking skills increased from cycle to cycle. The students no longer felt shy when describing their own image and indirectly practiced speaking English when the application started with the missions. The students enjoyed practicing their speaking because they thought the missions were like a game, making learning more fun.

4.3 Daily Conversation

This feature allows learners to learn new sentences or phrases that the Cake application updates daily, which are used in everyday conversation in the form of simulated conversations between two people taking turns speaking. Learners will practice pronunciation as in the conversation chapter in various dialogue contexts. Sentences are displayed along with their meanings so that learners can read along. To test pronunciation, learners can use the speaking mode (press the microphone icon) to try speaking in alternating conversations with the AI speech recognition system, which will score the student's pronunciation. If the pronunciation is correct or close to it, they will receive a score of A, and a score of D if pronounced incorrectly. However, learners can practice pronouncing repeatedly until they achieve a satisfactory result.

According to Octavianita et al. (2022), the Cake application has been around for a while and is in high demand among English language learners. It presents various short videos from YouTube, such as movies, animation material, and brief conversations. The videos are presented interactively, with clear subtitles and elements of complex word repetition. As a result, learners grasp short dialogues more easily than lengthy ones, which can be boring and confusing due to their large amounts of words. This is also supported by the results of research by Fitria et al. (2021), which reported that students responded positively to the app, leading to significant improvements in their speaking skills through its daily conversation features.

4.4 Chat with Jake

Cake application character developers designed Cake's character "Jake," the English buddy who assists users in accomplishing various missions on the app (Behance, 2020). Chat with Jake is a feature that functions like a dictionary or vocabulary bank, helping learners find the meanings of words more easily. To use it, you enter the English word you want to know into the "Type the word you want to know" box. Then Jake will provide the meaning of the word, how to use it in a sentence, and an example sentence with its meaning. Additionally, a short clip of the word or phrase is sent so that you can understand the pronunciation, the context in which the word is used, and practice pronunciation using the voice recording feature to check your pronunciation.

Moreover, this feature also provides learners with a speaking mission through Jake mission, where you need to practice speaking four expressions a day to get a grade of B or higher. You have three days to complete missions at each level. Upon completion of a mission, you will receive stars and advance your mission level. The expressions you learn are saved in the review icon for you to review at any time.

A study carried out by Redjeki and Muhajir (2022) supported students' self-directed learning in EFL speaking classrooms using the Cake application. The researchers discovered that the Cake application can be used to support students' self-directed learning in EFL speaking classrooms and improve students' vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar as components of speaking skills. They can learn and practice English simply by watching videos. Therefore, learning English with Cake becomes easier, simpler, and more fun. Additionally, features such as quizzes, classes, and voice recording are useful.

The Cake application offers a comprehensive, interactive learning experience for English learners. With speech recognition, interactive videos, and AI-powered conversation tools, learners can enhance their pronunciation, fluency, and confidence. Research confirms that repeated listening, shadowing, and AI feedback are highly effective strategies for improving English-speaking skills. By integrating these strategies and features, learners can maximize their learning potential and make language practice enjoyable and effective.

Hatyai Academic Journal Vol. 23 No. 2 (May – August 2025)
วารสารหาดใหญ่วิชาการ ปีที่ 23 ฉบับที่ 2 (พฤษภาคม – สิงหาคม 2568)

361

Conclusion

Learning to speak English fluently requires consistent practice, exposure to native pronunciation, and interactive engagement—all of which the Cake application effectively provides. This article has explored how learners can maximize their experience with Cake by leveraging speech recognition, shadowing, repeated listening, and interactive features like Daily Conversations and Chat with Jake. To extend the great usefulness of this article, this section discusses key takeaways, applications using strategies, and suggestions for future research and classroom application use.

The followings are some key takeaways from the Cake application that might be useful for the English teachers if they would like to apply the application in their teaching.

☑ Interactive & Engaging Learning – The Cake application makes English learning fun and interactive through videos, quizzes, and AI-powered speaking exercises.

☑ Effective Pronunciation Practice – With AI speech recognition, learners receive real-time feedback, helping them improve pronunciation with confidence.

☑ Authentic Language Exposure – Video clips from native speakers provide real-world conversational exposure, helping learners sound more natural.

☑ Flexibility & Accessibility – The app allows users to practice anytime, anywhere, making language learning convenient and self-paced.

☑ Boosts Confidence & Motivation – Research and user feedback indicate that Cake encourages learners to speak without fear, eliminating shyness and hesitation.

Additionally, for any readers who would like to try using the Cake application, these strategies might be beneficial for your learning routine.

- If you struggle with pronunciation, try using the AI speech recognition tool to refine your speaking skills.
- If fluency is your goal, commit to daily shadowing practice with native speakers in the app.
- Want to improve listening comprehension? Make it a habit to replay videos multiple times until you grasp the natural flow of speech.

No matter what your proficiency levels, the Cake application offers tailored resources to help you improve your spoken English effectively. Take the challenge—give it a try and see how your speaking skills develop.

Finally, for those interested in conducting research or integrating the Cake application into their English teaching contexts, the following points should be considered, as educational settings may vary.

1) Adapting Cake for different learner groups: Two questions may encourage the researchers to explore and expand more knowledge about the Cake application: 1) How effective is the Cake app for young learners vs. adult learners? and 2) Can it be customized for learners with special needs or those learning English for specific purposes (e.g., business English, academic English)?

2) Measuring long-term learning outcomes: This can be an interesting topic for the Cake application research in the future. Future studies can track students' progress over longer periods to see how consistent Cake usage impacts fluency, pronunciation, and confidence.

3) Integrating Cake into classroom learning: This is also fascinating if any English teachers want to prove whether the Cake application is effective in the classroom. There are two questions for this excited exploration: 1) How can teachers blend the Cake application into formal English language courses? and 2) Can it be used as a supplement to traditional speaking lessons?

By continuing to explore and apply this innovative learning tool, educators and learners alike can maximize its impact on English language proficiency. To sum up, the Cake application offers a modern, interactive way to practice English-speaking skills in a stress-free, engaging environment. Whether you're a beginner looking to build confidence or an advanced learner fine-tuning your pronunciation, Cake provides a flexible and enjoyable learning experience. So why not take the first step today? Try Cake, experiment with the strategies discussed, and discover a new way to master English fluency.

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