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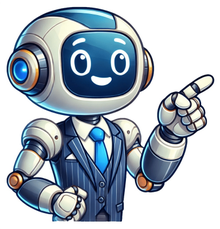

Google speaking practice

Google Launches Revolutionary 'Speaking Practice' Feature to Enhance Language Learning Google Introduces Interactive Speaking Practice Feature for Android Users New feature aims to bridge language gap by providing personalized feedback and real-time corrections to learners of English. Google has announced an exciting new feature that will help language learners improve their speaking skills and connect with others from diverse backgrounds. Starting soon, users in Argentina, Colombia, India (Hindi), Indonesia, Mexico, and Venezuela can access interactive speaking practice sessions through Google Search on their Android devices. The innovative tool is designed to be used alongside other learning resources such as tutoring services, apps, and classes. It offers learners a chance to practice vocabulary in context, repeat material over dynamic intervals to increase retention, and get instant feedback on their responses. Learners are presented with real-life prompts and can form their own spoken answers using provided vocabulary words. They engage in 3-5 minute practice sessions, which offer personalized feedback and the option to sign up for daily reminders to keep practicing. Experts partnered by Google say that this tool is a valuable addition to language learning resources. "Speaking in context is a skill that learners often lack the opportunity to practice," said Judit Kormos, Professor at Lancaster University. Google aims to expand this program further and collaborate with interested partners to surface their content and connect it with learners worldwide. Personalized feedback plays a crucial role in effective practice, as responses are analyzed to provide real-time suggestions and corrections. The system offers semantic feedback, indicating whether the response is relevant to the question and may be understood by a conversation partner. Grammar feedback provides insights into possible errors and areas for improvement. With this feature, learners can enhance their language skills and become more confident speakers. The new speaking practice feature on Google Search is an exciting step towards bridging the language gap and empowering learners worldwide. This initiative aims to bridge the gap by providing a valuable resource for learners of English. Google partners with linguists, teachers, and pedagogical experts to deliver effective and motivating practice experiences for learners. Learners can now access the interactive speaking practice sessions on their Android devices and start improving their language skills. The developed technologies offer substantial improvements in contextual translation, enabling the translation of individual words and phrases within a sentence. A key feature is the ability to tap on unknown words during practice sessions, providing instant context-based translations. This approach tackles the complex task of word alignment by translating entire sentences and estimating relationships between words. A novel deep learning model, called Deep Aligner, plays a crucial role in this functionality. Trained on hundreds of languages and fine-tuned with human expert-provided examples, it achieves state-of-the-art alignment error rates, reducing average errors from 25% to 5%. This improvement is reflected across all tested language pairs. The technology also enhances grammar feedback for accented spoken language by adapting written text models to work with automatic speech recognition (ASR) transcriptions. By fine-tuning on a corpus of human and ASR transcripts with expert-provided corrections, the model improves accuracy. Furthermore, a novel edit-based output representation leverages high overlap between inputs and outputs, making it suitable for short input sentences common in language learning settings. Given text here am2 so3 bad4 at5 cooking6 Edits: ('at', 4, PREPOSITION, 4) In the example above, an error was introduced in the word "at" that is inserted at position 4 and "PREPOSITION" denotes this as an error involving prepositions. The model improved its grammar problem recall from 4.6% to 35%. Some examples of user input and output: User input (transcribed speech) - I live of my profession. I need a efficient card and reliable. Text-based grammar model - I live by my profession. I need an efficient card and a reliable. New speech-optimized model - I live off my profession. I need an efficient and reliable card. Our goal is to communicate one's intent clearly in conversation. To achieve this, we designed a feature that visually communicates whether the response was relevant to the context and understandable by a partner. This is a challenging technical problem, especially for early language learners whose spoken responses can be syntactically unconventional. We balanced our technology to focus on clarity of intent rather than syntax correctness. Our system uses two approaches: 1. Sensibility classification - Large language models are designed to provide natural responses in conversation and do well judging contextually sensible responses. 2. Similarity to good responses - We used an encoder architecture to compare the learner's input to a set of known good responses in a semantic embedding space. The system provides feedback on relevance and understandability, including practicing with human-expert created content and AI-assisted content that has been reviewed by humans. We developed novel models that can estimate language complexity, even for short phrases or words. Our best model is based on BERT and achieves predictions closest to human expert consensus, pre-trained using a large set of LLM-labeled examples and fine-tuned with a human expert–labeled dataset. We tested various methods for estimating content difficulty on a diverse set of ~450 conversational passages. Our human raters assigned a score from 0.0 to 5.0 (aligned with CEFR levels), while different models performed the same task, revealing their differences from expert consensus. This model enables evaluating text item difficulties, providing diverse suggestions, and challenging learners accordingly. For instance, we can fine-tune our system to generate speaking prompts at various complexity levels using this model. Using vocabulary focus words such as 'guitar', 'apple', and 'lion', we created examples for different language skill levels: * Simple: What do you like to play? Do you like fruit? Do you like big cats? * Intermediate: Do you play any musical instruments? What is your favorite fruit? What is your favorite animal? * Complex: What stringed instrument do you enjoy playing? Which type of fruit do you enjoy eating for its crunchy texture and sweet flavor? Do you enjoy watching large, powerful predators? Content difficulty estimation also helps gradually increase task difficulty over time, adapting to learners' progress. With the latest updates rolling out in the coming days, Google Search has become even more helpful. We're now testing an AI-powered "speaking practice" tool in Search that assists users in improving their English speaking skills. Available in countries like Argentina, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and Venezuela (via Android devices), this feature uses generative AI to provide interactive experiences that help learners use new words in everyday scenarios with examples. Google recently added a feature to its search engine that aids English language learners in improving their speaking skills. This new function is set to roll out soon for Android users in several countries. Similar tools have been available on Twitter and other platforms, but Google's version offers personalized feedback and interactive practice sessions. Learners can access this feature by selecting the "speaking practice" option on their device. The tool provides real-life scenarios and vocabulary words that learners must incorporate into their responses. This approach is designed to be more effective than traditional learning methods, as it allows users to practice speaking in context. The system analyzes learners' responses and offers suggestions for improvement, including grammar corrections and alternative ways to respond. It also provides semantic feedback on the relevance of their answers, allowing learners to gauge whether their responses would be understood by a native speaker. Google's new feature is part of a larger effort to support language learners, who often face challenges in finding opportunities to practice speaking actively and receiving actionable feedback. With this tool, learners can access personalized feedback and improve their language skills at their own pace, making it an invaluable resource for those looking to enhance their English proficiency. Considering its context, a novel deep learning model called Deep Aligner has been developed to accurately align words, significantly enhancing translation quality. To provide grammar feedback for accented spoken languages, researchers adapted written text correction models for automatic speech recognition (ASR) transcriptions, specifically for accented speech. This improved the recall of grammar issues in spoken language. Google introduced 'Speaking Practice,' an AI-driven feature within its search platform to enhance English speaking abilities through interactive exercises. Google's Speaking Practice uses AI technology to assist English learners in Argentina, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and Venezuela as part of its Search Labs program. This tool offers AI-driven interactive language exercises for users to practice conversational English. To access Speaking Practice, join Google's Search Labs programme, then activate the feature within Google Search. Engage in sample interactions to familiarise yourself with the tool's functionality. Speaking Practice doesn't replace comprehensive language courses but offers a valuable opportunity for users to practice conversational English by simulating real-life interactions and incorporating new vocabulary into everyday conversations, thereby improving fluency. The interactive nature of Google's Speaking Practice allows users to engage in simulated conversations, responding naturally to prompts from the AI. While currently in the testing phase, its potential impact on language learning is significant.