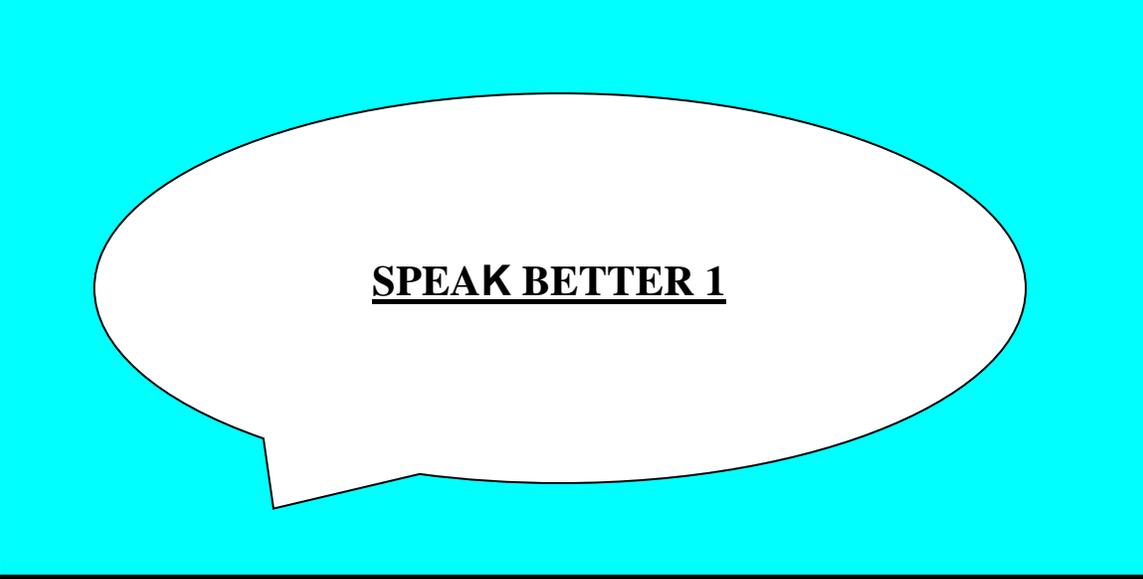


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SPEAK BETTER 1

Taking an interview

Barry John is a renowned theatre personality who started his own theatre group called TAG. He revolutionized the theatre scene in Delhi by bringing in plays which were issue-specific and topical. Here we read an excerpt from an interview of Barry John and discover many things about his life and times.

This is an extract from an interview with Barry John from Fluency in English II:

Can you talk of an incident when TAG forged a personal breakthrough for someone?

This is tricky ground. I am not sure I have the right to talk about individuals I know intimately and for whom the work has had value. But ultimately, it is a therapy. Which of us is completely healthy and 100 percent normal? We all have a lot to grapple with. Theatre is quite magical in confronting and dealing with that. People is theatre's central issue. If you don't have an interest in people and what makes

them tick and do the strange and wonderful and dreadful things that they do, then why are you doing it?

Very illustrious people apprenticed with you. Have they continued your vision?

I wouldn't expect so. I'd be disappointed if that were so. I am not bringing out people in any kind of mould with a Barry John stamp. The stamp is that they are who they are and will do things in their own way. Be sensitive, self aware, their creativity must be rooted in themselves.



<http://www.bollycurry.com/celeb/barry-john/>

ACTIVITY 1
HOW TO TAKE AN INTERVIEW

At the initial stage, let us focus on the word 'interview'. We can now play the part of the Interviewer and the Interviewee and conduct this process at the most basic level in the following manner:

Student 1—What do you do?

Student 2— I work in an Export firm.

Student 1— How do you find your work?

Student 2—I think that my work is very interesting and fulfilling.

Student 1—What are your qualifications?

Student 2—I finished my graduation two years back and then acquired a Diploma in Merchandising.

So it is clear now that an interview is a process of questions and answers related to a particular issue.

Moving on to **Barry John** let us find out a little more about Barry John and his **Theatre Action Group**.

ACTIVITY 2
SPEAK BETTER BY QUESTIONING & ANSWERING

Student 1—Who is Barry John?

Student 2—He is a famous theatre personality and runs his own theatre school.

Student 1—Why is he famous?

Student 2—He is famous because he has trained and guided a number of actors who have acted in the plays that he has produced and directed.

The following transcript will be read out in the actual format of an **Interview**. The **speaking skill** has to be enhanced by listening to that.

TAG, the theatre group you started, is legendary. Shahrukh Khan, Ravi Dubey, Sidhartha Basu, Lillette Dubey, Mira Nair, Manoj Bajpai all came through that...what was your vision of theatre?

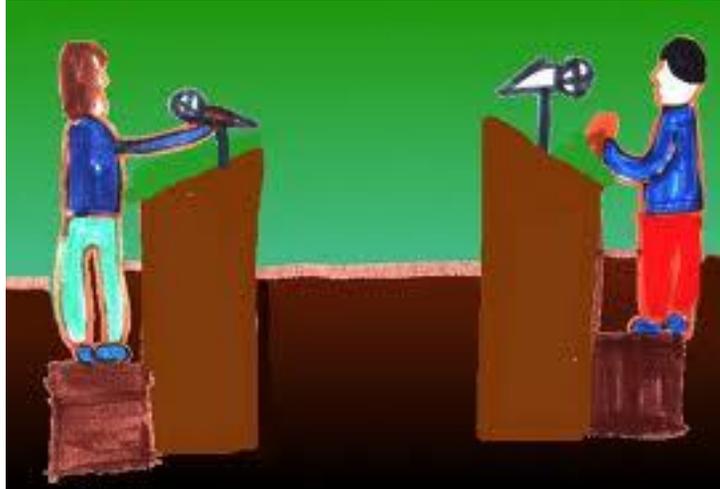
I first came to Delhi in the 70's with a group called Yatrik, which was doing fairly staid, conventional theatre. My livelihood was teaching drama in schools. Soon I began productions in colleges as well. Here I came in touch with a new exciting pulse, St.Stephens, Miranda House...they were all branded elitist, but the kids were keenly aware of the new counter culture movement....[page 15]

The following words need to be emphasized upon—

Legendary
Conventional
Elitist
Yearning
Exploration
Concocted
Naturalistic
Intimate

ACTIVITY 3

DEBATE



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Have you ever thought why people get married? Nowadays more and more women are working and therefore have financial independence. Has this change affected marriage as a social institution? In what way? Let us speak in favour of this proposition and against it.

Financial independence has changed the face of marriage

Hints for speaking in favour of the issue.

1. Women are more independent and aware.
2. Financial independence is good for their self-esteem.
3. Both partners in a marriage are on an equal footing.
4. Children do not depend on the mother but become self-reliant.

Hints for speaking against the issue

Women are over-burdened with work.

1. This leads to neglect of domestic responsibilities.
2. This may in turn lead to conflict at home.
3. Ego-issues may crop up between the couple.

ACTIVITY 4 RESPONDING

How to respond to:

A SITUATION

Suppose your car breaks down in the middle of the road. A passerby offers to drop you at the nearest garage. Fill in your response in the following sentences:

Stranger: It seems you need some help.

You: -----

Stranger: Can I drop you at the next right turn, there's a garage there.

You: -----

Stranger: Are you sure?

You: _____



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A DIALOGUE

You have just entered the venue of a wedding party. Fill in your responses in the following dialogue you have with the host.

Host: Welcome, we are happy that you could make it.

You: -----

Host: Of course, please make yourself comfortable.

You: -----

Host: There is some dancing too, if you are interested.

You: -----.



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ACTIVITY 5

There are several words used to describe the act of speaking.

For example,

A **Dialogue** is a talk between two people

A **Monologue** is the speech of a single person.

Given below are several words used to describe speech. Find out what they mean. Use a dictionary, if necessary.

Conversation, chatter, briefing, lecture, chit-chat, speech

Now say whether the following statements are true or false:

1. A **speech** is a talk given by a teacher to his students.
2. **Chit-chat** is what speakers at a conference are supposed to do.
3. **Briefing** is the information given in advance to any group being sent out on a mission.
4. A **conversation** is a talk given in public.
5. A **lecture** is a talk given for the purpose of teaching.
6. **Chatter** is quick or foolish talk.



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ANSWERS

[False, false, true, false, true, true]

ACTIVITY 6

A more interesting activity would involve some audiovisual clips of the movie Billy Elliot. The connection can be made between Billy who like Barry was born in a working class family of England and was more interested in following the opera rather than boxing. Barry too was put into manual labor by his father when he wanted to study theatre. However, Billy's story has a happy ending where as Barry's struggle was completely his own and does not reach a reconciliation.

The movie is an interesting way of looking at Barry John's life. He thinks that Billy's family was more supportive than his own.

Instead of training for the Opera, which Billy did, Barry was involved with plays from a very young age and wanted to study theatre.

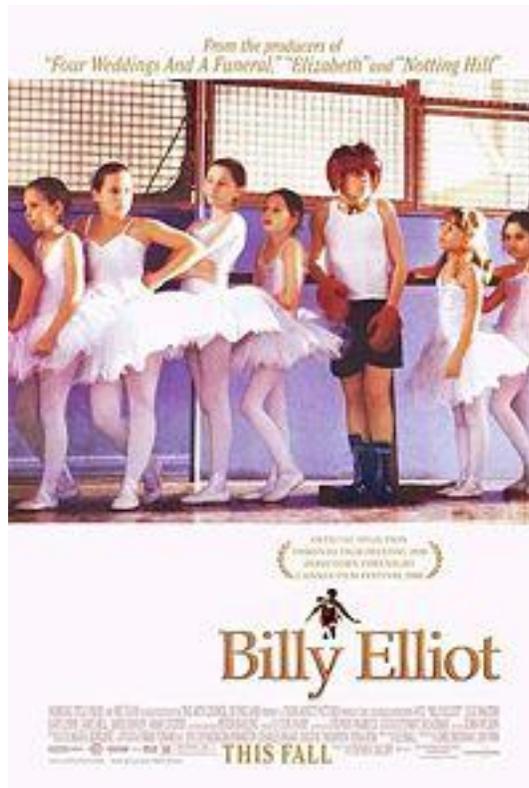


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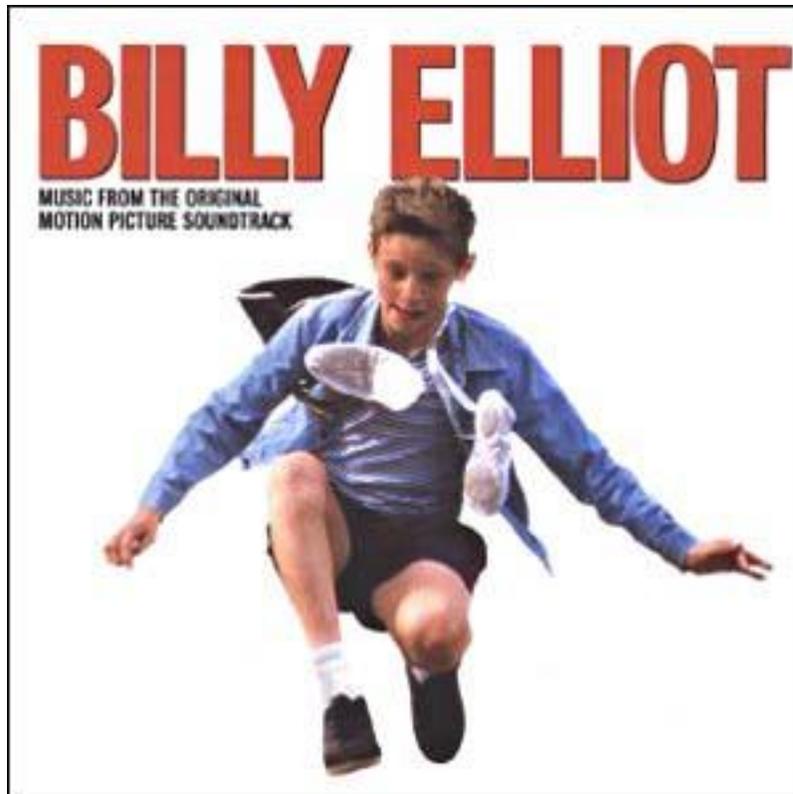
[71131577991695&page=14&tbnh=157&tbnw=157&ndsp=19&ved=1t:429,r:7,s:221,i:96&biw=1360&bih=540](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0434409/?ref=mp_title)

We watch here a movie clip from the movie **Billy Elliott**. Try and speak the dialogues from the clip, in a different accent than in the movie.

www.imdb.com



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Billy_Elliot_movie.jpg on 31 January 31, 2011



http://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiedosto:Billy_Elliot.jpg on 31 January 2011

What have you learnt?

An interview is a process of questions and answers related to a particular issue. It is an interactive session between two people.