

LESSON 2



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LESSON:

- Pre-Speaking Activity
- Speaking for and against a given topic 2.1
- Rehearsing Speech 2.2
- Speaking in Different Dialects 2.3
- Speaking in response to a Situation 2.4
- Participating in a Dialogue 2.5
- What Have You Learnt?

ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- While writing allows the writer to draft and redraft in order to get the content and matter right, most types of speaking require speakers to produce their message on the spot, with little or no chance to modify or edit it until after it has been heard.
- Speaking for and against a given subject helps one explore the various dimensions by which we can assess a given subject.
- Languages vary across time, space, social class, gender, sex, education, etc. All languages have regional varieties called dialects.
- Dialogue is a literary form and "its everyday basis and counterpart is a conversational exchange between two or more people".

SPEAKING I

TOTAL TIME: 65 MINS

PRE-SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Time: 10
mins

Table A has a list of different writing activities and **Table B** has a list of different speaking activities. Let us compare these two modes of communication.

TABLE A

1. Writing a letter of condolence to a friend.
2. Preparing some notes of a lecture.
3. Chatting on the internet.
4. Writing an essay in an exam.
5. Writing a shopping list.
6. Writing notes to a friend.

TABLE B

1. Making a complaint to a company over the phone.
2. A telephone conversation with a friend.
3. Chatting to a friend face-to-face.
4. Delivering a lecture in a class.
5. Speaking to a shopkeeper.
6. Speaking to a friend after a long time.

Points to ponder:

- ❖ While writing allows the writer to draft and redraft in order to get the content and matter right, most types of speaking require the speaker to produce their message on the spot, with no chance to change it until after it has been heard.
- ❖ On the one hand, having more time to think about what to write and how to write often makes people more self-conscious, and this can make the process of writing slow and painful as compared to speaking.
- ❖ On the other hand, when people talk they usually have to think and speak simultaneously, and therefore, no matter how articulate they are, they cannot give a polished version of their thoughts.
- ❖ Yet another difference between writing and speaking is that writing is usually done at a distance from the reader, whereas many types of speaking and listening are interactive, simultaneous and/or face-to face.
- ❖ Once something is written down it seems definite, unchangeable and open to criticism, whereas spoken language is fluid and negotiable.

Taken from "The Politics of Writing" by Romy Clark and Roz Ivanič. Lon & New York: Routledge, 1997. p. 86-7.

SPEAKING FOR AND AGAINST A
GIVEN TOPIC (2.1)

Time: 10
mins

Exercise
2.1

Speaking for and against a given subject helps one explore the various dimensions in which we can assess a given subject. This is an effective tool to enhance one's communication skills and is a medium to see two sides of the same subject. Let us study this a little further by attempting the activity given below.

"Money is the be all and the end all of life."

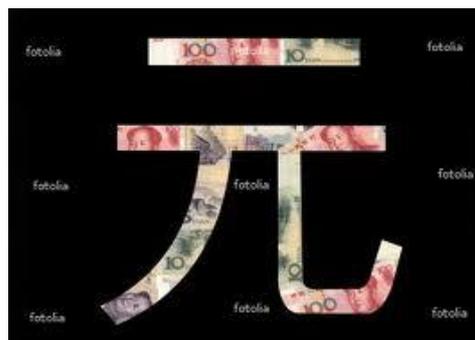
Speak for or against this topic.



Indian Rupee Symbol. Picture 12

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news_image_files/NewRupee_190.jpg

Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:42pm.



Chinese Currency Symbol Yuan
Picture 13

http://static-p4.fotolia.com/jpg/00/07/59/59/400_F_7595958_9FVkJgXs30nDDvC2WwjsOIgRkMa91Bs1.jpg Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:44 pm.

One Possible
Answer 2.1

[Click here for the audio file with the answers](#) Audio File (Ex 2.1)

FOR:

Money is indispensable for the survival of human beings. It is the means of buying or selling commodities and it gives us the purchasing power for buying several kinds of commodities. It is impossible to survive without it since it is the means of exchange. With the growth in the economy and with the increase in the growth rate because of globalization, the standard of living has gone up and consequently so has the need for money amongst the emerging middle class and even the lower sections of society for meeting their requirements. Money is the key to survival and also the means for improving our lifestyles besides meeting our basic, daily requirements.

AGAINST:

Money cannot be considered the be all and end all of life because it is an object of insatiable desire . The meeting of one's requirements or desires gives rise to many more and the need to fulfil endless/unlimited wants and needs. It often leads to increase in the crime rate and also makes people greedy to hoard more and more. Too much materialism and craving for money can also lead to a dissolution of morals and values.

REHEARSING A SPEECH (2.2)

Time: 10
mins

Exercise 2.2

Spend some time on this exercise to learn how to speak more fluently. This activity has been designed keeping in mind the fact that we need to pay special attention to how we speak. To make things simpler it has been structured in the form of questions asked by an interviewer to an interviewee for a job that the latter seeks as an interior designer. Speak aloud and compare the results with the recorded audio file. Click on it to hear how it should be spoken.

One Possible Answer 2.2

[Click here for the audio file](#) Audio File (Ex 2.2)

Interviewer: Good morning, Anita!

Interviewee: Good morning, Sir.

Interviewer: Tell us something about yourself, Anita.

Interviewee: Sir, I am a dedicated and hardworking person and I pursue my goals with utmost commitment towards them.

Interviewer: So how many years of experience do you have in the field of interior designing?

Interviewee: Sir, this is my second assignment. Prior to this I worked for four years in a private firm.

Interviewer: Are you good at meeting deadlines?

Interviewee: Sir, I assure you that I will wholeheartedly work towards ensuring the maximum output in the given time.

Interviewer: Ok. Do you think you are qualified enough to meet our job profile as an Assistant Manager in the firm?

Interviewee: Sir I have good leadership skills that I acquired when I had to monitor several assignments as Junior Assistant in my previous firm and I also ensure that I deliver the best output when a task is given to me.

Interviewer: That shall be all for now. It was a pleasure to talk to you. Thank you, Anita.

Interviewee: It was my pleasure too, indeed, Sir. Thank you.



Picture 14

<http://www.imagesbazaar.com/preview.aspx?id=143280&s=3>

Accessed on 3/05/2011 at 5:00 pm.

SPEAKING IN DIFFERENT DIALECTS (2.3)

Time: 10
mins

All living languages change constantly. They show variations across different dimensions. Languages vary across time, space, social class, gender, sex, education, etc.

All languages have regional varieties called dialects. Dialects refer to features of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. An international language like English which is spoken across the globe not only has regional varieties, i.e. it is spoken differently in different areas within Britain, but also has national varieties.[...]

Native languages also vary according to social classes. Labels like 'speech of the aristocracy'(or Queen's English), 'upper-class speech', 'language of the-man-on-the-street', etc., refer to social dialects or sociolects.[...]

Taken from English At The Workplace ed. Mukti Sanyal, Sudesh Sawhney, Shormishtha Panja, and Pramodini Varma. p.45.

Now, to simplify this concept further, click on the link provided below to hear a recorded version of a few sentences that can be spoken differently in different dialects. Try to understand the finer nuances of change in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar in the way the lady's speech changes for every single different dialect. In order to understand how we can express the same sentence differently or how the same sentence is uttered differently across different regions watch this video carefully.

[Click here for the video](#)

Video 1: Pronunciation Tips

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0PtmfZ5p4I>

Accessed on 01/03/2011 at 2:44pm.

SPEAKING IN RESPONSE TO A SITUATION (2.4)

Time: 15 mins

Exercise 2.4

You have a situation provided for you. Decide, by working with two or three friends of yours, which would be the suitable response to the given situation. It could also be none of the given options. You can work on this activity by one student reading out the given situation and the remaining students voting on the most suitable response.

Situation 1. You have been invited for an official party.

Response: (a) How kind of you to have invited me. I will definitely be there.
(b) I am busy, so I can't come.
(c) I will have to think about it.

Situation 2. You need to apply for leave.

Response: (a) I will not be coming for work next week as I am going out of station.
(b) I would like to apply for leave as I am going on a vacation.
(c) I need a break so don't expect me to be at work next week.

Situation 3. You want to request your friend for a favour.

Response: (a) I need this work to be done urgently by you.
(b) I have a favour to ask of you.
(c) I want this to be done immediately.

Situation 4. Your boss has asked you to submit some work but you find it difficult to complete it by the assigned deadline.

Response: (a) Sir, can I please request you to extend the deadline. I can assure you that I will complete the required work with the best results.
(b) I cannot submit my work by the allotted deadline.
(c) I am going on leave and I cannot submit the work by then.

Situation 5. Your mother has requested you to pick her up from a shop.

Response: (a) Sure Mom, I will pick you up after your work is over.
(b) Sorry, but I want to do some work.
(c) Please excuse me. Ask bhaiya instead.

Situation 6. Your dad wants to take you out for dinner but you have to finish some assignments.

Response: (a) Impossible. I have to finish some work.
(b) I can't make it.
(c) I'm sorry Dad not today, since I have to meet some deadlines. Can we make it tomorrow?

Possible
Answers, 2.4

1. None. In all the three responses, the two most important words have been left out; *Thank You*.
2. (b) The second response seems to be the appropriate one while the first one seems too authoritative and the third one is rude and impolite.
3. (b) The first and third responses sound like commands while the second seems to be the only polite one in making a request. The first one sounds peremptory while the third one is authoritative in tone.
4. (a) Only the first one sounds like a request while the second and third suggest control and arrogance.
5. (a) The first response shows regard and responsibility towards the mother while the second and third show disregard and meanness.
6. (c) Out of these three response options the third is the most suitable, while the first and second show lack of concern and therefore sound impolite.



Picture 15

<http://www.coastmasters.org/images/speaking.JPG>

Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:50 pm.



Picture 16

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_0EodaYtqevU/TMun5XOj03I/AAAAAAAAAIU/lzrnWelQjgc/s1600/group-discussion.jpg Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:51 pm.

PARTICIPATING IN A
DIALOGUE (2.5)

Time: 10
mins

What is a **Dialogue**?

Dialogue is a form of communication, one of the earliest examples of which in Western literature are the dialogues of Plato. Its commonplace meaning is "a conversational exchange between two or more people. Its chief historical origins as a narrative, philosophical, or didactic device are to be found in classical Greek and Indian Literature, in particular in the ancient art of rhetoric" or in the Indian classical texts such as the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.

Exercise
2.5

Try to attempt the following exercise by completing the short turns of dialogue exchanged between two people. These dialogues are not in continuity so respond to every given dialogue independently of the others given in the exercise. The first two have been done for you.

1.A: What have you decided about our trip to Europe?

1.B: We will certainly make it there this time. I shall book the tickets tomorrow.

2.A: Where were you when I called yesterday?

2.B: I had gone to the mall to buy some groceries.

3.A: Do you mind if I open the window?

3.B: _____

4.A: At what time will you be free from work tomorrow?

4.B: _____

5.A: At what time do you have to pick up Anita from the station tomorrow?

5.B: _____

6.A: Is there a vacancy in your firm?

6.B: _____

7.A: Who has moved into the house next to yours?

7.B: _____

8.A: Can we go out for a walk after dinner?

8.B: _____

9.A: Where is Rahul hosting his party tonight?

9.B: _____

10.A: Please, can you take me to the taxi stand.

10.B: _____

Possible
Answers,
2.5

Here is a possible list of answers for the remaining exercise.

- 3. B: No, not at all. In fact I would also love to get some fresh air.
- 4.B: I should be free by 6pm.
- 5.B: I have to pick her up by 8 o'clock.
- 6.B: Yes. There is one vacancy for a copywriter.
- 7.B: The Lals have moved into the house next to ours.
- 8.B: Yes, sure. I was thinking of it too.
- 9.B: Rahul is hosting his party at the golf club that is close to his house.
- 10.B: Yes, sure. I will be happy to take you there.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT?

- Writing work has to be carefully planned, while speaking is normally spontaneous.
- We can speak both for as well as against a topic to delve deeper into the subject and to see both facets of it.
- Rehearsing a speech can greatly improve our communication skills. This is facilitated by the use of audio files provided along with the activity.
- Languages vary across time, space, social class, gender, sex, education, etc. Also, all languages have regional varieties called dialects.
- Responding to situations enables you to communicate effectively and politely.
- A Dialogue is a conversation or a discussion between two participants

Links for Images

Picture12

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news_image_files/NewRupee_190.jpg

Picture13 <http://static->

p4.fotolia.com/jpg/00/07/59/59/400_F_7595958_9FVkJgXs30nDDvC2WwjsOIgRkMa91Bs1.jpg

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Picture16

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Links for Videos

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