

Lesson 9



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LESSON:

- Pre-Speaking Activity
- Speaking Better in a Dialogue 9.1
- Speaking Aloud 9.2
- Speaking with Stress/Accent 9.3
- Speaking Out: In a Cartoon Strip 9.4
- Reading a Map v/s Speaking to Explain It 9.5
- What Have You Learnt?

ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- We have to ensure that we speak well and effectively so that we can captivate the attention of the people whom we are addressing.
- Although in conversation sometimes we do take the liberty of being blunt or to-the-point, there are some rules of speech etiquette that must be observed, depending on the situation we are in and the person with whom we are conversing.
- A lot of care and attention needs to be paid to stress, accent, intonation and pronunciation when one reads out a poem or for that matter any written or composed piece.
- Speaking a sentence with different stress, intonation and accent can significantly alter the meaning of the sentence with the change in emphasis.
- A cartoon strip also conveys a message to us, if only we are perceptive enough to interpret and understand its deeper, hidden meaning.
- Reading a map for the first time of an area that we are not too familiar may seem a little difficult, but hearing someone describing it aloud can make understanding a lot easier.

SPEAKING II

TOTAL TIME: 75 MINS

PRE-SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Time: 10
mins

Speaking is an activity that we engage in all the time. But have you ever wondered what are the qualities of an effective speaker or what characteristics a good speaker should exhibit. Sometimes listening to a speaker can almost put one to sleep. Therefore we have to ensure that we speak well and effectively so that we can capture the attention of the people whom we are addressing. Here are some points to keep in mind before you go through the activity tests on speaking.

- ✓ Speak slowly and pause after the sentence closes.
- ✓ Maintain an audible volume and pronounce every word clearly.
- ✓ Provide adequate stress and accent for emphasis or before vowels.e.g "the hotel" "an apple". "the" is for emphasis and "an" is stressed since it precedes the vowel of the next word "a". In "the hotel" , an emphasis on "the" will lead to one meaning and an emphasis on "hotel" to a different meaning; similarly "an apple" will mean one thing and "an *apple*" will mean something else.
- ✓ Listen to good speakers to gradually become a good speaker yourself. Listening to audio recordings can also help.
- ✓ Maintain a daily progress report to see which skills you lack, so that you can gradually improve on them till they become second nature to you.

Here is a video clip of a speech being given by the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Video 3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R83xMWtEp7k>

Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:57 pm

What kind of a speaker do you think he is? Effective or Ineffective? Think carefully about the reasons for your answer.



Picture 41

http://www.blackpast.org/files/blackpast_images/Obama_Barack_Speech_on_Race.jpg Accessed on 01/04/2011 at 11:10 am.

Hint: Barack Obama is an effective speaker, since he speaks clearly, can be understood easily and has a powerful style of oration _____

Below is a speech by the ex-president of the United States, George Bush. What kind of a speaker is he in comparison with Barack Obama? Effective or ineffective and why?

[Click here for the video clip of George Bush's Speech](#)

Video 4

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tbPCYctoeU>

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

George Bush is not an effective speaker since he doesn't speak too clearly and also makes many mistakes. It is clear that he does not possess the oratorical style of Barack Obama.

**SPEAKING BETTER IN A
DIALOGUE (9.1)**

Time: 15
mins

Although in conversation sometimes we do take the liberty of being blunt or to-the-point, there are some rules of speech etiquette that must be observed, depending on the situation we are in or the person with whom we are conversing. To understand this point better you may undertake the activity given below.

Give one snippet of dialogue for each of the following functions:
giving (1) information, (2) instruction, (3) warning, (4) prohibition.

INFORMATION

Anita: Do we have to come for work tomorrow?
Raj: Yes, we have to come tomorrow. Its only the day after tomorrow that we have a holiday.

INSTRUCTION

Ruchi: At what time is your flight mother?
Mother: I leave at 7:00pm. But ensure that you do not open the door to strangers and lock the doors properly at night.

WARNING

Anu: How much water should I put in the pressure cooker?
Rina: The water should be sufficient, otherwise owing to the steam getting trapped inside the container, the cooker can burst.

PROHIBITION

Raj: At what time does the library close?
Librarian: The library closes at 6:30 pm but students are not allowed to remain in the premises beyond 6:00 pm.

SPEAKING ALOUD (9.2)

Time: 10
mins

A lot of care and attention needs to be paid to stress, accent, intonation and pronunciation when one reads out a poem. To make this exercise simpler a poem has been read out in the audio clip. However first you must read the poem aloud on your own and then compare your reading with the reading in the audio clip. Then make a list of the places where you need to improve your reading. The transcript of the poem has been provided below

W. H. Auden "The Unknown Citizen"

(To JS/07/M/378) This Marble Monument Is Erected by the State)

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint,
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was Popular with his mates and liked to drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a Paper every day
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured
And his Health-card shows he was once in a hospital but left it cured,
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Installment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of the year;
When there was peace he was for peace when there was war he went.
He was married and added five children to the population,
Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his generation,
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he Happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

[Click here](#) (Audio File-Ex9.2) 31Track31.mp3

In this poem the speaker represents the point of view of the establishment and the unknown citizen is an ideal citizen because he conforms entirely to the establishment's idea of the good life.

Some of the points that you need to pay attention to while reading this poem aloud have been listed below:

Accent  A particular mode of pronunciation, esp. one associated with a particular region or group; a mark on a letter or word to indicate pitch, stress, or the quality of a vowel. To illustrate this further, [click here](#) for a video clip on accent. Video 5.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRLpHsN6RL0>

Accessed on 23/05/11 at 8:30pm.

Stress  accentuation; emphasis laid on a syllable or word. To understand this concept better, [click here](#) for a video clip on stress applied to syllables or words. Video 6.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbs5aoqFtVQ>

Accessed on 23/05/11 at 8:45pm.

Intonation  modulation of the voice; accuracy of pitch in playing or singing. To understand what is intonation with the help of a video clip, [click here](#). Video 7.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2bHdXcszJ4>

Accessed on 23/05/11 at 10:00 pm.

Pitch  expressing in a particular style or at a particular level. To get a detailed understanding of pitch, click on this hyperlink to learn more about pitch. You may also click on the audio clips provided with some sentences on the webpage that you access through this hyperlink.

You can see <http://www.pronuncian.com/Intonation/> for more on pitch.

Accessed on 24/05/11 at 9:35 am.

This is an interesting video that you might like to view on an unconventional view on the function of poetry and how it should be read.

[Click here](#) for a portion from the film ***Dead Poets Society*** where the English professor John Keating (Robin Williams) delivers a piece on how to read poetry. He speaks against conventional methods that instruct on learning poetry by stressing on figures of speech, rhyme and poetry and gives his views on the importance of poetry by stating that we read poetry because we are members of the human race and are driven by beauty and passion and that according to him is the level at which we connect with poetry because poetry is about beauty, romance, love and passion.

Video 8

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VUV2YI8gsI>

Accessed on 17/02/2011 at 1:59 pm.

Dead Poets Society is a 1989 drama film starring Robin Williams and directed by Peter Weir. It is set at a conservative and aristocratic boys preparatory school and tells the story of an English teacher who inspires his students to change their lives of conformity through his unconventional methods of learning poetry and literature.

The story is set at the fictional Welton Academy in Vermont in the 1950s, and was filmed at St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Delaware.

Neil Perry, Todd Anderson, Knox Overstreet, Charlie Dalton, Richard Cameron, Steven Meeks, and Gerard Pitts are senior students of the Welton Academy preparatory school, whose life's principles are defined by their headmaster Gale Nolan as "tradition, honour, discipline and excellence". Both Neil and Todd are under harsh parental pressure to become a doctor and a lawyer respectively, but Todd wants to be a writer and Neil wants to be an actor.

The teaching methods of their new English teacher, John Keating (Robin Williams), are unorthodox by Welton standards, who first leaves the class room whistling the *1812 Overture* tune to lead the students down before the class photos of long since aged and passed alumnus to impress the youths with the importance of *carpe diem* or *seize the day*. He convinces the students that they must address him as "O Captain! My Captain!," in reference to a Walt Whitman poem if they feel daring. In another class, after having Neil read aloud their poetry textbook introduction from Dr.J.Evans Pritchard's book entitled Understanding Poetry, which prescribes a mathematical formula to rate a poem's quality on a graph of perfection and importance, he instructs his pupils to rip the introduction pages out, to the amazement of one of his colleagues. Instead he implores his students to look at the world in a unique way, standing on the desk to illustrate.

Inspired by Keating's description in the yearbook (as Keating was a highly regarded student at Welton), several boys secretly revive a school literary club, the titular "Dead Poets Society," to which Keating was instrumental, holding session in a small cave outside school grounds.

SPEAKING WITH STRESS/ ACCENT (9.3)

Time: 10 mins

Speaking a sentence with different stress, intonation and accent can significantly alter the meaning of the sentence. Here is an exercise given below to demonstrate this point more clearly.

1. She 'went to the 'market.

Here with the stress on 'went' and 'market' the speaker is focusing on the action of the subject. In this sentence, the stress is clearly on the action, or what she did, which is emphasized on through the stress on 'went to the 'market. The stress on 'went merely supports the main action in the sentence by focusing on what she did through the use of this verb.

2. She 'went to the 'market 'yesterday.

Here with an added emphasis on 'yesterday', the speaker wants to let you know when the subject went to the market; and the focus is on 'when'.

3. She 'went to the 'market yesterday to make 'some purchases.

Here the additional focus is on 'why' she went to the market.

4. She 'went to the 'market yesterday to 'make some purchases 'for the 'function.

Here the maximum information has been given and with the added stress on 'for' and 'function' we know more about why she went, that is, we are told 'what for'.

In the next set of examples given below, mark the stress at the appropriate places or read the sentence aloud with the tap of a finger to give the required beat. For instance, when you read aloud the sentences given above tap your finger on the surface of a table where the required stress on a word or syllable has to be given. This will help you to understand the function of stress in a sentence better. Also listen to the recorded audio file to test and compare your results with the recorded version. Avoid changing the meaning of the sentences within a given set. Instead, let the added content give extra information.

Exercise
9.3

- A
1. I want some butter.
 2. I want some butter with my toast.
 3. I want some butter with my toast, please.

Here's another set.

- B
1. I need some money.
 2. I need some money to buy my books.
 3. I need some money to buy my books and some stationery too.

Answers
9.3

[Click here for the audio file](#) (Audio File-Ex 9.3)

- A
1. I 'want some 'butter.
 2. I 'want some 'butter with my 'toast.
 3. I 'want some 'butter with my toast, 'please.
- B
1. I 'need some 'money.
 2. I 'need some 'money to 'buy my 'books.
 3. I 'need some 'money to 'buy my books and 'some stationery too.

SPEAKING OUT: IN A CARTOON STRIP (9.4)

Time: 15 mins

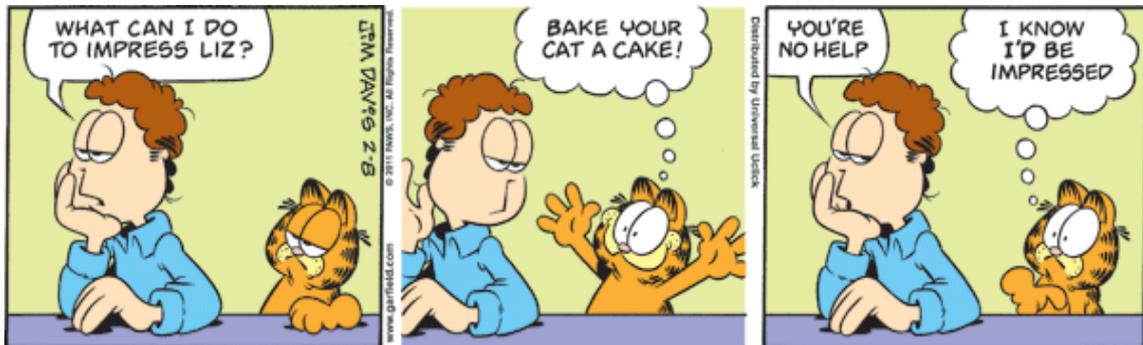
A cartoon strip also conveys a message to us. What is spoken in it often helps us know things we may not have noted or a message which is hidden in it only to be revealed once the listener can understand the hidden meaning being conveyed by it, if we are receptive or alert enough to understand it and look beneath the surface.

Cartoon Strip 1



Picture 42 <http://www.arcamax.com/garfield/s-833994-382895>
Accessed on 10/2/2011 at 5:42 pm.

Cartoon Strip 2



Picture 43 <http://www.arcamax.com/garfield/s-833995-553007>
Accessed on 10/2/2011 at 5:38 pm.

Cartoon Strip 3



Picture 44 <http://www.arcamax.com/thefunnies/garfield/s-885304>
Accessed on 24/05/2011 at 8:55 pm.

Now try to complete the exercise given below

Think for yourself...

1. Why does Garfield tell Jon in Cartoon Strip 1 that he finds it weird that Liz likes Jon?
2. Why does Garfield tell Jon in Cartoon Strip 2 that he knows he'd be impressed?
3. Why does Garfield say, "Oh, no" with a stunned look in Cartoon Strip 3?
4. How does Garfield get entangled with kites in Cartoon Strip 3?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS
9.4

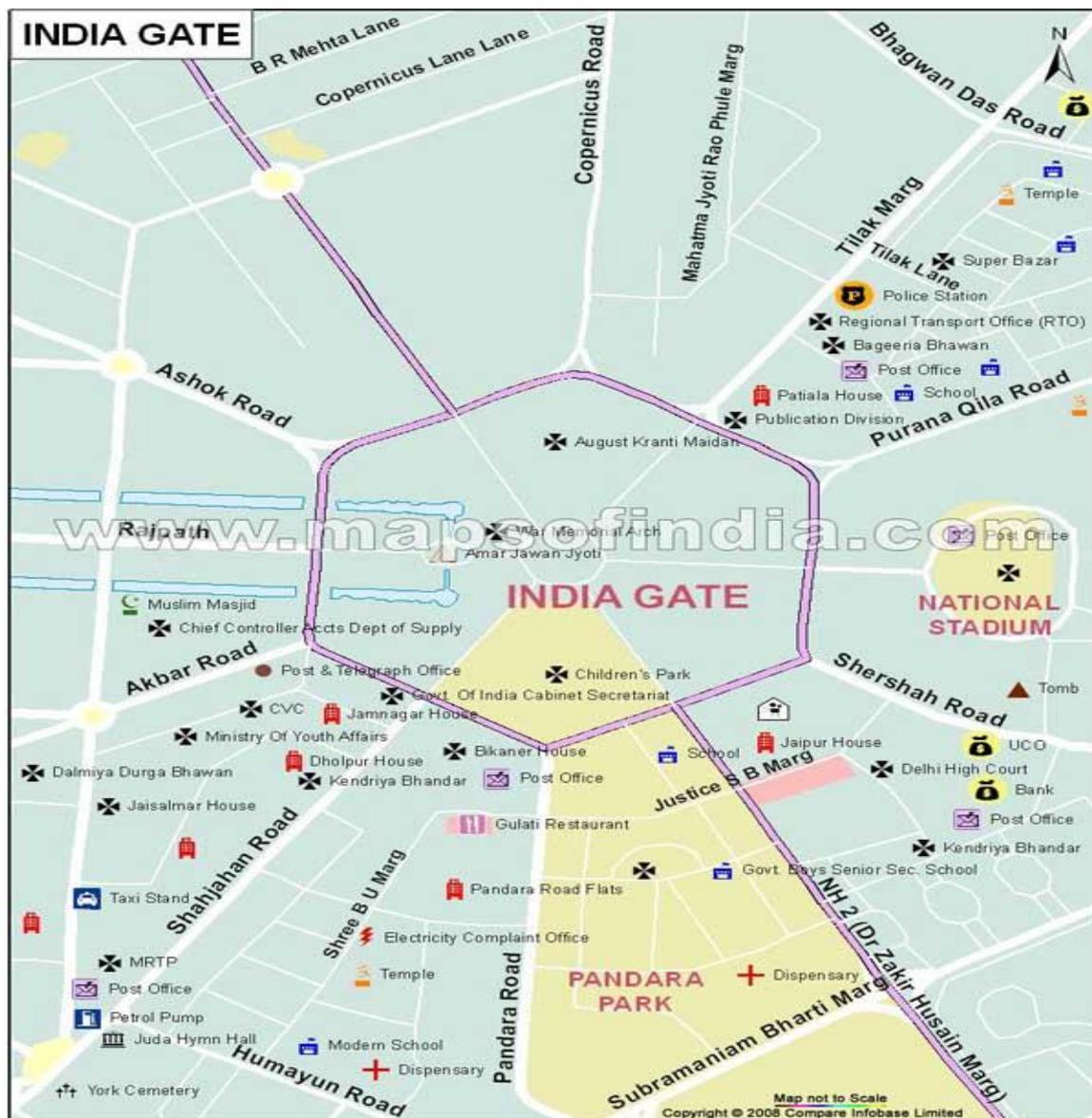
1. Garfield finds it surprising or difficult to imagine that anyone should like his owner Jon, least of all a girl like Liz whom he believes is a sensible and smart woman.
2. Garfield tells Jon to bake his cat a cake if he wants to impress his girlfriend. To which Jon says "you're no help", which can be inferred as "that's not a solution". Garfield is sarcastic towards Jon and says he knows that he'd be impressed since he knew that it was too much to ask for or expect from Jon.
3. Garfield says "Oh, no" with a stunned expression in Cartoon Strip 3, because while he is hanging from the branch of the tree, he sees kids flying kites below and he can almost foresee what is bound to happen, as shown in the last picture of this Cartoon Strip.
4. Garfield get entangled with kites in Cartoon Strip 3 because while he is hanging from the branch of a tree, there are children playing below with kites and inevitably the kites get entangled all around Garfield.

READING A MAP V/S
SPEAKING TO EXPLAIN IT
(9.5)

Time: 15
mins

Reading is quite different from interpreting and speaking aloud. Let us consider the case where we have a map in front of us. Suppose you have to explain a particular route to your friend over the telephone. What is the difference? See for yourself. Try to assess some of the advantages of speaking in this process.

Exercise
9.5



Picture 45

<http://www.mapsofindia.com/delhi/maps/india-gate.jpg>

Accessed on 11/02/2011 at 2:49pm.

Your friend asks for directions from the Post office near Shah Jahan Road to Patiala House over the telephone. How would you read the map and explain the directions to him/her.

Answers 9.5

Ritu: Could you please tell me which route I should take to drive down from the Post office near Shah Jahan Road to Patiala House.

Anu: Oh, that's simple. As you come out of the Post office just follow Shah Jahan road, and as you reach India Gate keep going around it. You will cross roads on the left that have signs for Akbar Road, Rajpath, Ashok Road and Copernicus Marg. Now take the very next road after Copernicus Road, known as Tilak Marg. On Tilak Marg on the right hand side, the building right after Publications Division is Patiala House and there you are!

Ritu: That was indeed easy to follow. I am glad I asked you before setting out on my journey.

Conclusion: As you can notice, the conversation takes us one step further over the map. Often landmarks that are given on the phone may not be visible on the map. So it is always better to consult someone familiar with the area in case you are not very sure you can follow the directions from the map or if you have a sketchy idea of it.

Also, reading a map for the first time of an area that we are not too familiar may seem a little difficult. But if a person familiar with the route were to explain it to us, the route would be easily identifiable when we reach the spot after following the directions given by him/her.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT?

- To speak with perfection one needs to constantly monitor one's progress in terms of one's audibility, pitch, accent, intonation, stress, pronunciation and body language while speaking.
- Practising with audio files of the text can help you read the text better.
- Even a cartoon strip has a lot to communicate if one can intelligently perceive it.
- Reading a map is very different from speaking and explaining the directions to someone. Often giving directions orally is better since one can give important landmarks that may be missed in the map on paper.
- Speaking with varying degrees of stress can change the meaning of the sentence depending on which word/syllable is being stressed. Stress is often given for emphasis.

Links for Images

Picture 41

http://www.blackpast.org/files/blackpast_images/Obama_Barack_Speech_on_Race.jpg

Picture 42 (Exercise 9.4, Cartoon Strip 1)

<http://www.arcamax.com/garfield/s-833994-382895>

Picture 43(Exercise 9.4, Cartoon Strip 2)

<http://www.arcamax.com/garfield/s-833995-553007>

Picture 44(Exercise 9.4, Cartoon Strip 3)

<http://www.arcamax.com/thefunnies/garfield/s-885304>

Picture 45

<http://www.mapsofindia.com/delhi/maps/india-gate.jpg>

Links for Videos

Video 3:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R83xMWtEp7k>

Video 4:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tbPCYctoeU>

Video 5:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRLpHsN6RLO>

Video 6:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbs5aoqFtVQ>

Video 7:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2bHdXcszJ4>

Video 8:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VUV2YI8gsI>