

STUDENT'S INTRODUCTION

SPEAK SMART!

Upper-Intermediate (B2) [series 2]

Hi! And welcome to **SPEAK SMART!**

This fantastic book will help you learn the words and expressions you need to speak fluently and confidently in English. You will also improve your listening skills and practise lots of useful grammar.

The aim of this book is to help you speak more confidently and fluently in English. How do we achieve this? It's easy! By giving you lots of opportunities to practise speaking.

In each unit, there are reading, listening and video activities with vocabulary and grammar exercises, and **lots of speaking practice**. All of this will help you learn new words and improve your written and spoken English.

The fun, dynamic lessons will really motivate you, and help you go up a level... FAST!

Each of the 8 units is divided into lessons that include the following:

- A warm-up discussion activity.
- Vocabulary exercises + speaking practice.
- A **reading, video** or **listening** activity.
- A **speaking** exercise.

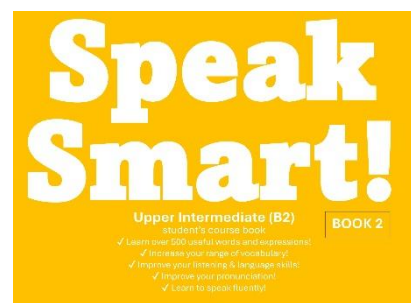
By ending each lesson with a speaking activity, you'll remember the words more easily and learn faster.

Best of all, the language in **SPEAK SMART** is really practical – the type of words and expressions you can use when speaking.

On top of that, each lesson has everything you need to learn easily: video and audio files, scripts, discussion questions, grammar explanations, vocabulary exercises, the speaking activities...

If you want to become a confident and fluent speaker, this book will give you all of that and more. With **SPEAK SMART** you will learn fast and improve your speaking... guaranteed!

Good luck! 😊



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Answers

Unit 1 Getting it Right & Wrong!

In this unit there are reading, listening and video activities with vocabulary and grammar exercises, and lots of **speaking practice** to increase fluency. All of this will help you learn lots of new words and improve your written and **spoken English**.

READING: How I got my job!

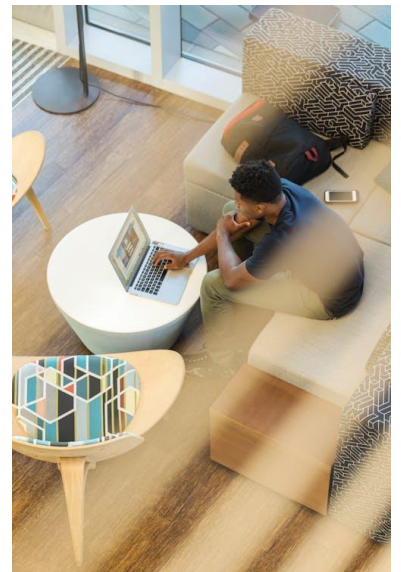
In this there's a discussion activity, a list of useful vocabulary, a reading text, and a related speaking activity. This will help you learn lots of new words that you can use in the speaking exercises. Enjoy it! 😊

Discussion: My job!

Answer any 1 or 2 of these questions. Invent if necessary.

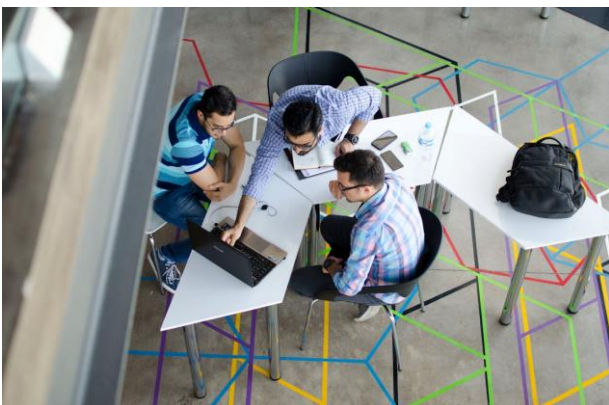
Part 1

- How did you get your current job?
- How did you get any of your previous jobs?
- What stories do you have related to how you got your current or previous job?
- What mistakes have you made at work?
- What **achievements** have you had at work?
- What **events** have you organised? How did you organise them?
- In what way have you helped the people at your current or previous jobs?
- Have you ever done anything extraordinary at work? What was it?
- Have you ever helped the company save money? What happened?
- Have you ever alerted the company to a problem or issue? What happened?
- Have you ever prevented a security risk at work? How?
- Describe a time when you made your boss very happy. What happened?
- Describe a time when you resolved an issue at work. What did you do?
- Have you ever reported an incident anonymously? What was it?
- Have you ever saved someone from a bad situation at work? What did you do?



Part 2

- Who did you know at your current job before you started working there?
- Has anyone ever helped you to get a job? What happened?
- Describe a time when someone at work thanked you for something you did. What had you done?
- Have you ever helped anyone to get a job? What did you do?
- Have you ever met someone from work outside by chance?
- Have you ever bumped into someone from work while travelling? What happened?
- Has anyone ever recommended a job to you? What happened?
- Describe a time when someone at work was really impressed with you. What had you done?
- How important are contacts when it comes to getting a job?
- Describe a time when you had to lie or twist the truth to help the company. What did you do? What happened?



Vocabulary

If you know the word, explain it. If not, read the sentence and guess. [The **bold** part shows which syllable is stressed.]

- **A tester** = We gave our latest gadget to a group of testers and most of them were very positive about it.
- **To hack into** = She wanted to steal the data, so she hacked into the company's secure system.
- **A big fan of** = I'm a big fan of all the films in the Harry Potter series.
- **Fake** = She wanted them to think she was an FBI agent, so she made a fake document with her name on it.
- **To relocate** = The company relocated its headquarters to Miami, Florida, so we had to move there too.
- **To download** = I wanted to play the game on my computer, so I downloaded it from the internet.
- **A bug / a glitch** = The software wasn't working properly because there were some bugs and glitches in it.
- **To make up** = He wanted to get into the conference for free, so he **made up** a story about being one of the speakers.
- **To report** = I discovered some issues with the software, so I reported them to the company.
- **To hire** = They needed some more help, so they hired him as a computer programmer.
- **To bark** = I couldn't sleep last night because my neighbour's dog was barking so much.
- **To get distracted** = I crashed the car after I got distracted by a cat crossing the road.
- **To swerve** = I crashed into a parked car after I swerved to avoid hitting a cyclist. [\[see image\]](#)
- **On leave** = I'm afraid Mrs Johnson isn't in the office at the moment – she's on maternity leave.
- **To pretend** = She didn't want to go to work, so she phoned reception and pretended to be sick.
- **To carry** = My cat didn't want to go to the vet, so I had to carry it there.
- **To rescue** = The dog fell into the water, and I jumped in to rescue it.
- **To get on well with** = I really like my work colleagues. We all get on really well.
- **A windshield / windscreen** = I left a note on the car windshield with my phone number on it. [\[see image\]](#)



Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

on distracted relocated made hacked ~~rescue~~ reported hired pretended

1. The dog fell into the water, and I jumped in to **rescue** it.
2. They needed some more help, so they _____ him as a computer programmer.
3. The company _____ its headquarters to Miami, Florida, so we had to move there too.
4. She didn't want to go to work, so she phoned reception and _____ to be sick.
5. I really like my work colleagues. We all get _____ really well.
6. I discovered some issues with the software, so I _____ them to the company.
7. She wanted to steal the data, so she _____ into the company's secure system.
8. I crashed the car after I got _____ by a cat crossing the road.
9. He wanted to get into the conference for free, so he _____ up a story about being one of the speakers.

Speaking from the vocabulary!

Answer 1 or 2 of the questions related to the vocabulary. For any personal questions, simply invent information.

- Have you ever tested a product? What happened?
- What are you a big fan of?
- Do you think it should be a crime to hack into a system (without stealing anything)? Why? Why not?
- What fake goods have you bought? When? Where?
- Has your company ever relocated? Where to?
- Have you ever relocated because of your job? Why?
- What have you downloaded lately? Why?
- Have you ever discovered any bugs or glitches in a system? What happened?
- Have you ever made up a story? What was it? Why?
- When was the last time you reported something?
- Who has been hired at your company lately? Why?
- When was the last time you were disturbed by a barking dog? What happened?
- When was the last time you were distracted? Why?
- Have you ever had to swerve your car suddenly? Why? What happened?
- Who is on leave at your company? Why?
- Have you ever taken any leave at work? Why?
- Have you ever pretended to be someone who you weren't? When? Why?
- Have you ever pretended to be sick to avoid doing something? What? When? Why?
- When did you last carry someone or something?
- Have you ever rescued someone or something? Why?
- Who do you get on well with at work?
- What notes have appeared on your car windscreen?
- Have you ever had to replace your windscreen? Why?

How I got my job – completely true, but unusual stories!

Here are some stories about how people got their jobs. For each story, answer these two questions:

1. What happened in the story?
2. Why or how did the person get the job?

The video game tester [by Jessica]

I got my first job as a video game tester after I hacked into a video game company's website. I was a big fan of the company's games, and I wanted to play their upcoming release. I used my skills and hacked into the company's website and downloaded the game. I played the game and found some bugs and **glitches**. I reported these to the company **anonymously**. The company was impressed by my hacking and testing abilities; and a few weeks later, they hired me as a video game tester. I was shocked and happy, and I got to play more games.



The dog walker [by Ben]

I got my first job as a dog walker after I **rescued** a dog from a burning building. I was passing by the **mansion** when I saw smoke and heard **barking**. I ran inside and found a dog trapped in a room. I broke down the door and carried the dog to safety. The dog's **owner** was so grateful that he offered me a job as a dog walker for his dog. **Eventually**, his friends asked me to walk **their** dogs. Very soon, I was walking 10 dogs three times a day for the neighbours... and making a lot of money!



The pizza delivery driver [by Pete]

I got my first job as a pizza delivery driver after I **accidentally** crashed into a car. I was driving along when I got distracted by a cat crossing the road. I swerved to the right and hit a car that was parked there. There was no one around, so I left a note on the windshield, with my phone number on it. The car owner was the manager at a pizza restaurant. She called me and we chatted. She said she was really impressed by my honesty and **apology**. While we were speaking, I mentioned that I was looking for a job, and she said that she needed someone to deliver their pizzas. Immediately, I accepted the job and became one of the best pizza delivery drivers in town.



The museum guide [by Zoe]

I got my first job as a museum guide after I **pretended** to be one for a day. I was bored and curious about the museum, so I made a fake badge and put it on and started giving tours to the visitors. I made up stories and facts about the exhibits, but the visitors loved it. One day, the museum **director** noticed my **enthusiasm** and talent, and hired me to be a real museum guide. I was surprised and happy. And best of all, I learnt the actual facts about the museum.



The accountant [by Mike]

I'd **studied** finance and accounting and I'd just left my first job because my wife had **relocated** to another city. One day, we went to a wedding, and I got into conversation with someone who was from the same town as me. We got on really well and exchanged contact details. It turned out that his company was looking for an accountant to cover someone who was on **maternity** leave. He said he'd pass on my details to HR (Human Resources). I didn't really think anything would come of it, but about a week later, I got an e-mail from the company inviting me in for an interview. And a few days later, I was offered a temporary job. It just goes to show that if you're looking for a job, you should make as many contacts as you can – because you never know!



Speaking

Summary or My story!

Either give a summary of one or two of the stories from this lesson or tell the class your own story about how you got your current job or any previous ones.

GRAMMAR: Regular past tense verbs!

Look at this extract from the reading text: *I wanted to play their upcoming release.* The speaker has used a past tense verb: *wanted*. In this grammar section, we're looking at the regular past tense. This will improve your spoken and written English.

Pronunciation: regular past tense verbs

Regular past tense verbs end in -ed: work-worked, live-lived, etc.

There are 3 ways of pronouncing regular past tense verbs!

1 / id /

If the final sound of the main verb is / t / or / d / = we pronounce the -ed part of the verb as / id /: *want-wanted, respond-responded, start-started, correct-corrected*

2 / t /

If the final verb sound is any of the following sounds, we pronounce the -ed as / t /:

S = **press** = pressed / *prest* /

P = **hope** = hoped / *həʊpt* /

K = **walk** = walked / *wɔ:kt* /

F = **laugh** = laughed / *la:ft* /

Sh = **wash** = washed / *wɒʃt* /

Ch = **reach** = reached / *ri:tʃt* /

Acronym to help you remember this = **SPeaK** about **FiSH** & **CHips** [copyright Learn Hot English]

3 / d /

All the other verbs are pronounced with a / d / sound: *happened, realized, called, rained, snowed, moved...*

For these verbs, delete the 'e' when speaking: *moved* = (pr: *movd*)

Practice

Say these verbs with the / id / sound: *needed, decided, wanted, exploded, contracted, responded*

Say these verbs with the / t / sound: *worked, walked, missed, helped, hoped, liked, pronounced*

Say these verbs with the / d / sound: *moved, rained, snowed, explained, involved, programmed*

Summary: the pronunciation of regular past tense verbs: *play-played, listen-listened*

If the final sound is / d / or / t / we pronounce it as / id / = *wanted, exploded, exploited...* [wan-tid...]

If the final sound is / s / / p / / k / / sh / / ch / we pronounce it as / t / = *missed, hoped, liked...* [misst, hopt...]

For all the other verbs, it's a / d / sound: *loved, rained, snowed, explained...* [lovd, rained, snowd...]

Acronym to help you remember this = **SPeaK** about **FiSH** & **CHips**

Test

How would you pronounce these regular past tense verbs?

Worked, started, talked, finished, dropped, waited, rained, asked, arrested, turned, cooked, ended, stopped, guessed, missed, snowed, played, loved, involved, pressed...

Questions

Answer any of these questions in the regular past with full answers. Invent and improvise and give details.

- Where did you work before this company?
- Who did you talk to at the conference?
- What time did the meeting start?
- What did you drop in the street?
- How long did they wait?
- Who did the police arrest?
- When did they deliver the package?
- What did the boss want?
- When did the concert end?
- What time did they finish?
- Which button did you press?
- Who was involved in the project?
- Where did you walk to?
- Who did she love?
- What did you change in the e-mail?
- How long did it rain for?
- How long did you play tennis for?
- What did you cook at the weekend?
- When did it stop snowing?
- Why did you miss the train?
- What time did you stop working yesterday?

Free speaking

Use the topics below (or any others) to speak for about 30-60 seconds. Use as many regular past tense verbs as you can. Your sentences can be random or connected to a theme – as you like. Before starting, read over the example below. You could make it into a competition to see who can use the most regular past tense verbs as possible.

A day trip to a nearby town

Last weekend, I visited the charming town of Elora. I arrived early in the morning and walked along the picturesque streets, admiring the unique architecture. I stopped by a cozy café and enjoyed a warm cup of coffee. Later, I explored the local market and bought some handmade souvenirs. I strolled down to the riverbank and watched the ducks glide across the water. For lunch, I chose a riverside restaurant and enjoyed a delicious meal. In the afternoon, I hiked up to the lookout point and marvelled at the stunning view. I met some friendly locals who shared stories about the town's history. As the day ended, I returned to the city feeling refreshed and grateful for the memories I created.

Verbs to use (or any others)

Cleaned, complained, visited, cooked, mopped, prepared, barked, booked, touched, processed, answered, walked, washed, moved, liked, watched, needed, wanted, interested, confirmed, fixed, exploded, phoned, competed, released, pleased, cheered, regulated, defined, hacked, booked, touched, processed, stopped, wanted, interested, released, regulated, finished, checked

Topics

- A day trip you took to a nearby town or city.
- A project you worked on recently.
- A book you read that had an impact on you.
- A meal you cooked that turned out well.
- An exercise routine you followed.
- A new skill you learnt.
- A night out with friends.
- A family gathering you attended.
- A goal you achieved.
- A competition you entered.
- A festival you went to.
- An exhibition you saw.
- A museum you visited.
- A business trip you went on.
- A sporting event you attended.
- A trip you organised.
- A concert you went to.
- A meeting at work.



VIDEO: In the face of danger!

In this there's a discussion activity, a list of useful vocabulary, a short video clip, and a related speaking activity. This will help you learn lots of new words that you can use in the speaking exercises. Enjoy it! 😊

Discussion: Being brave!

Answer any 1 or 2 of these questions. For any personal questions, simply invent information. Also, keep it light and positive (nothing too serious, please).

Part 1

Would you dare to do any of the following things? Why? Why not? Have you done them?

Bungee-jumping (see picture), swimming with a shark, hang-gliding (see image below), diving in the sea, parachuting / skydiving, rafting, canyoning (jumping off rocks in a river), holding a poisonous spider, letting a snake hang around your neck, firewalking (walking over burning coals), rock climbing, free climbing (rock climbing without ropes), pot holing, parkour (jumping over obstacles in a city)... other?

- What are some of the bravest things you've ever done? What's your idea of bravery?
- When was the last time you did something 'stupid': leaving your keys at home, forgetting something...? What happened?
- What would you do if you were approached by any of the following animals: a bear, wolf, alligator, koala, snake, fox, wild dog, street cat...?
- Have you ever been approached by any of these animals? What happened?
- Is there a fine line between bravery and stupidity? In what way?
- Have you ever done something spontaneously then regretted it afterwards? What was it? Why did you regret it?
- Have you ever forced yourself to do something you really didn't want to do? What was it? How did you feel afterwards?
- Has your instinct ever kicked in? When? Where? Why?
- Have you ever been in 'fight or flight' mode? When? Where? Why? What happened?

Part 2

- How would you define **courage/bravery**? Do you know anyone who has done something courageous? What was it?
- What are you most afraid of: fire, water, wild animals, heights, flying...? Why? What do you do to overcome your fears?
- Have you ever helped someone in danger? What was happening? What did you do?
- Have you ever been in a dangerous situation: an earthquake, a flood, a fire...? What did you do? How did you react?
- Have you ever panicked? When? Where? Why?
- What do you think of this quote? "True courage is overcoming your fear without knowing the result and the consequences of your action"
- Do you think animals should get awards for bravery? Why? Why not?
- Who is the bravest person you know? Why are they brave?
- When have you had to do a bit of quick thinking? What happened?
- When was the last time you had to think on your feet?



Vocabulary

Read the sentences and explain the meaning of each word or expression. If possible, find a synonym for it. If you already know the meaning, explain it. [The part of each word in **bold** or **bold-red** shows which syllable is stressed.]

- **A yard (US)** = The children were outside the house playing in the front **yard**. [see image]
- **A close encounter** = I had a close encounter with a wild bear after it walked into my garden.
- **To come face to face with** = I opened the patio door and came face to face with a wolf.
- **An ear-piercing scream** = There was an ear-piercing scream in the middle of the night.
- **A driveway** = There was a red car parked in the **driveway** of our house. [see image]
- **To hang out** = A lot of young people like to **hang out** in the shopping mall after school.
- **To unfold** = I watched the events unfold on TV. / The story unfolds slowly and mysteriously.
- **To freak out** = When she got home, she freaked out when she saw what had happened to her car.
- **To peek** = I **peeked** out from behind the curtain to see who was there. [see image]
- **Safe and sound** = The climbers were missing for 6 days, but now they're all home safe and sound.
- **To come to someone's rescue** = When the man fell in the **river**, a young woman came to his rescue.
- **To draw attention** = She started jumping up and down and shouting to draw attention to herself.
- **To chase (off)** = There was a fox in her garden, so she chased it off by running at it with a bat.
- **Not think twice** = When I saw the dog fall into the river, I didn't think twice and dived in to save it.
- **Not give something a second thought** = He'll quite happily spend \$10,000 in the casino without giving it a second thought.
- **To meander** = The wolf was walking slowly around the trees, **meandering** through the forest.

[see image of a meandering river]



Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

*twice unfold **freaked** sound attention chased thought hang face*

1. She **freaked** out when she saw what had happened to her car.
2. I opened the patio door and came face to _____ with a wolf.
3. After work on Fridays, we like to _____ out in the local bar for a few drinks.
4. When I saw the dog fall into the river, I didn't think _____ and dived in to save it.
5. As soon as we realised that the intruders had entered the house, we _____ them off by shouting at them.
6. He'll quite happily spend \$10,000 in the casino without giving it a second _____.
7. The climbers were missing for 6 days, but they're all home safe and _____ now.
8. I wasn't in the country during the revolution, but I watched it _____ on TV.
9. She started jumping up and down and shouting to draw _____ to herself.

Speaking from the vocabulary!

Answer 1 or 2 of the questions related to the vocabulary.

- What garden or yard areas do you have?
- What garden or yard areas are there in any houses belonging to your family?
- What do you like to do in the garden-yard?
- Have you ever had a **close encounter** with a wild animal? What happened?
- Have you ever come **face to face** with a wild animal? What happened?
- Describe a time you heard an **ear-piercing scream**. What was happening?
- How common are driveways in your country?
- Where did you like to **hang out** as a teenager?
- Where do you like to **hang out** after work with colleagues?
- When was the last time you hung out with friends? What did you do?
- When was the last time you watched events unfold? What was happening?
- When was the last time you saw someone **freak out**? What were they freaking out about?
- What makes you **freak out**? What happened the last time you freaked out?
- When was the last time you peeked out from behind the curtains? Why?
- What stories have you heard about missing people returning home all **safe and sound**?
- What stories have you heard about someone coming to another person's rescue?
- Who do you know who likes to draw attention to themselves? How do they do it?
- Have you ever had to chase off someone or something? What? Why?
- When was the last time you did something without thinking twice? What happened?
- What would you do without giving it a second thought? Why?

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3DG3Xc2Aqw>

Search YouTube for: Brave Woman Runs After Mama Bear Chasing Down Her Dog

Video: Woman versus bear!

You're going to watch a news report about a woman and some bears. Watch it once without stopping. What would you have done in this situation? Then, watch it again and answer the questions below.

1. How many bears were hanging out in the woman's front yard?
2. What did the mamma bear do to Zeus, the German Shepherd dog?
3. What was the mamma bear doing to its cubs (babies), according to Bailey (the woman)?
4. What did Bailey do? Why did she do it?
5. Why did Bailey go running back to the house?
6. In the end, what happened to Zeus (the dog)?



Script

Host: Now, a wild, close encounter as a dog named Zeus comes face to face with not one, not two, but three bears and all his owner had as a **weapon** were her ear-piercing screams.

Reporter: It's three bears hanging out in the front yard, and a **horrible** nightmare is about to unfold. A big and **nasty** surprise is awaiting a German Shepherd named Zeus as he returns home from a walk with his owner. It's the mamma bear, and she's not happy. The owner freaks out as the bear chases Zeus down the long driveway.

Bailey: She was probably just protecting her cubs, and was trying to chase off the biggest threat, which was Zeus.

R: Bailey Jacobson screamed as loud as she could. She didn't think twice about trying to come to Zeus's rescue.

B: For me it was like an **instinct**. It wasn't even really, er, a second thought that was, like, should I chase the bear? It was like, I'm going to!

R: She wanted to draw attention away from Zeus and to herself, and that's exactly what she did. Her screams caused the bear to stop chasing Zeus. But then, something unexpected happened.

B: I realized she made that 180° turn to look back at me, and then realized she was coming towards me, and that's where I realized that, 'Oh, crap!', like, I have to get back home too.

R: You see Bailey running back to the house. This time the bear is **meandering** behind her. But where's Zeus – her six-year-old German Shepherd?

B: He's huge!

R: Here's Zeus! For a moment, Bailey wasn't sure when he'd ever return home.

B: He **literally** peeked his little ears out of the woods about a minute later, and he was just waiting for my, my call.

R: Zeus, home safe and sound, thanks to a very brave woman.

Speaking

Summary

Give a **one-minute** summary of the video with your opinions on the ideas or information. Make sure you can see the script or vocabulary list so you can try to use any new words while you're speaking. While other students are speaking, think of questions to ask or comments to make based on what they've said. And/Or do the **role play** activity below.

Role play meeting – Should we reintroduce bears and wolves to the area?

You're in a city council meeting on the topic of whether to reintroduce bears and wolves to a nature reserve in your area.

First, choose a role from below (or combine ideas to create a new role), and think about what you want to say. Then, when you're ready, explain what you think. After that, listen to the other arguments. When everyone has finished explaining their positions, ask follow-up questions or make further comments.

- You're the **city mayor**. Listen to everyone's ideas. Then, decide what to do.
- **AGAINST**: you're the **president of the board of tourism**. You're worried about the effect that bears and bear attacks will have on tourism in the area.
- **AGAINST**: you're a **resident**. You're afraid that you might get attacked one day; you're also worried about how this might affect the value of your property.
- **AGAINST**: you're a **multiple-property owner**. You've invested a lot of money in the area, and you're worried about the effect the bears will have on the value of your investments.
- **AGAINST**: you're a **police officer**. You're concerned about residents' safety and think that everyone should have a gun and some bear spray in case they're attacked.
- **FOR**: you're an **animal rights activist** and you think we should just learn to live with the bears.
- **FOR**: you're an **environmentalist** and you think the increase of bears in the area is a good thing.
- **NEUTRAL**: you're a **journalist** who has been covering stories about this for many years. You have mixed opinions.

City mayor start like this: *So, thanks everyone for coming in today. First, let's hear from...*

Offering an opinion

- It's clear that...
- It's obvious that...
- I firmly believe...
- I think... because...
- In my opinion...
- It's true that... but...
- It's been shown that...
- There's some evidence to suggest that...
- There's no doubt in my mind that...
- A lot of people claim that...
- Some people claim that...
- It's clear that...
- Without a doubt,...
- I'm in favour of... / I'm against...

Challenging an opinion

- John, you said that... but...
- If I understood you correctly, you said that...
- So, you're saying that...
- What you seem to be implying is that...
- Why do you think that...?
- I agree that... / I disagree with that because...
- I agree with you about... However,...
- Do you really believe that...?
- Is it your opinion that...?
- What about...?
- What do you think of the report concerning...?
- Do you really think that people...?
- Do you really think that... is the best way to resolve this situation?
- Surely, if we... then...
- Where's the evidence to support your argument that...?

READING: Bad Parking

In this there's a discussion activity, a list of useful vocabulary, a reading text, and a related speaking activity. This will help you learn lots of new words that you can use in the speaking exercises. Enjoy it! 😊

Discussion: Driving & parking!

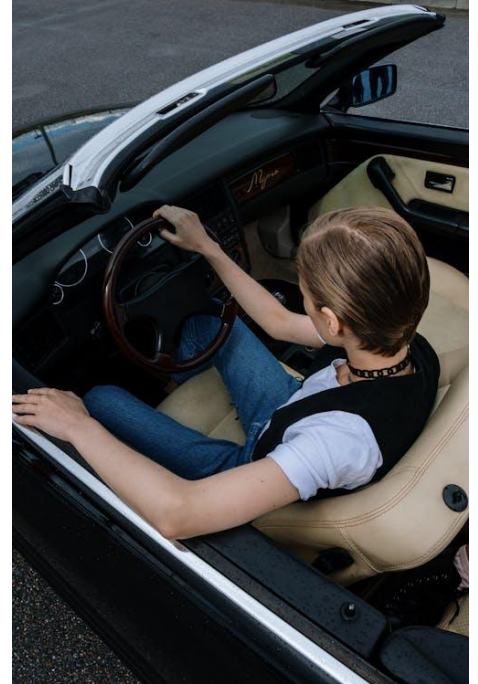
Answer any 1 or 2 of these questions. Invent if necessary.

Part 1

- What type of car do you have: electric, **hybrid**, petrol, diesel...? What make of car: Mercedes, BMW...?
- When did you take your **driving test**? How did it go? When did you pass?
- What are your top tips for passing the driving test?
- What are some of the most difficult things about learning to drive?
- When do you think we'll all be driving **electric cars**?
- What are the pros and cons of electric vehicles?
- What issues or problems have you had while driving? Once...
- What do you think of hybrid vehicles or plug-in hybrids?
- What are the **advantages** of owning a car? And the **disadvantages**?
- When was the last time you saw or experienced **road rage**? What happened?
- What do you know about repairing or maintaining a car?
- What do you think about the idea of **banning cars from city centres**?
- What other driving licences do you have?

Part 2

- What are the penalties for drink driving in your country?
- What is the penalty for speeding in your country? What do you think of it?
- Do you know anyone who has been fined for speeding? What happened?
- What's it like parking in your town or city? How easy or difficult is it?
- What parking restrictions are there in your town or city?
- What problems or issues have you had parking in your town or city?
- Have you ever spoken to a traffic warden about a parking issue? What happened?
- Have you ever contested a parking ticket? What happened?
- How often do you make short or possibly 'unnecessary' car journeys?
- Could you live without a car? Why? Why not?
- Have you ever rented a car? Were there any issues?
- How often should people have to renew their driving license or skills? Why?



Vocabulary

If you know the word, explain it. If not, read the sentence and guess. [The **bold** part shows which syllable is stressed.]

- **A vet** (veterinarian) = My dog was sick, so I took him to see the vet.
- **The dashboard** = My car dashboard has a really useful SatNav system on it. [see image]
- **To tie** = When the boat arrived at the **harbour**, they used some rope to tie it to a post.
- **To spill** = While I was carrying the cup of coffee, I spilt some of it on my trousers.
- **Bizarre** = I had a really strange dream last night that made no sense – it was completely **bizarre**.
- **To fail to impress** = He had a lack of experience, so he failed to impress the interviewers.
- **A yellow line** = The double yellow line means that parking is **prohibited**. [see image]
- **To miss** = We were 45 minutes late for the theatre show, so we missed the first half.
- **A veterinary clinic** = The veterinary clinic was full of owners with their pet dogs and cats.
- **To model** = During the fashion show, they were modelling Versace and Gucci dresses.
- **To contest** = They said our products weren't safe. In response, we **contested** their claims.
- **To run out** = The time on your parking ticket has **run out** so you'll have to pay a penalty.
- **Vicious** = Be careful with that dog – it can be aggressive and **vicious** with strangers.
- **Pay-and-display** = I put the pay-and-display ticket inside the car to prove that I'd paid for the parking. [see image]
- **A resident's permit** = I can park here in this zone because I have a resident's permit that proves that I live here.
- **To knock off** = As I was walking past the table, I accidentally hit the glass with my arm and knocked it off the table.



Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

run contested impress tie **missed** knocked vet spilt dashboard

1. We were 45 minutes late for the show, so we **missed** the first half.
2. While I was carrying the cup of coffee, I _____ some of it on my trousers.
3. The time on your parking ticket has _____ out so you'll have to pay a penalty.
4. My car _____ has a really useful SatNav system on it.
5. As I was walking past the table, I accidentally hit the glass with my arm, and _____ it off.
6. He had a lack of experience, so he failed to _____ the interviewers.
7. My dog was sick, so I took him to see the _____.
8. When the boat arrived at the **harbour**, they used some rope to _____ it to a post.
9. They said our products weren't safe. In response, we _____ their claims.

Speaking from the vocabulary!

Answer 1 or 2 of the questions related to the vocabulary.

- Have you ever taken a pet to the **vet's**? What happened? How did your pet react?
- What do you have on your car **dashboard**? What would you like to have?
- When was the last time you **typed** something? What was it? Why did you tie it?
- When was the last time you **spilt** something? What happened?
- Have you ever spilt a liquid on something expensive? What happened?
- What **bizarre** things have happened to you?
- When was the last time someone **failed to impress** you?
- Have you ever failed to impress someone you were trying to impress? What happened?
- What are the rules for parking on single or double **yellow lines** in your country?
- What other parking restrictions are there in your country?
- When was the last time you **missed** something? What was it? Why did you miss it?
- Have you ever missed a part of a performance or show? What happened?
- Have you ever **modelled** something? What? When? Where?
- Have you ever **contested** someone's claims about something? What happened?
- Describe an incident when you **ran out of time**. What happened?
- What pay-and-display parking zones are there in your city? How do they work?
- Are there special zones in your city for residents with parking permits? How does it work?
- When was the last time you knocked something off a place? What happened?

READING: Terrible excuses for bad parking!

You're going to read about some excuses for bad parking. Do the exercises. Then, do the related speaking activity.

Reading 1

What excuses could someone give for parking in a non-parking zone? Think of 1 or 2 ideas. Then, read the article once to compare your excuses. Were any of yours mentioned? For example: *'I didn't realise I couldn't park here.'* Which excuse is the best and worst?

Reading 2

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. See if you can do it without referring back to the text!

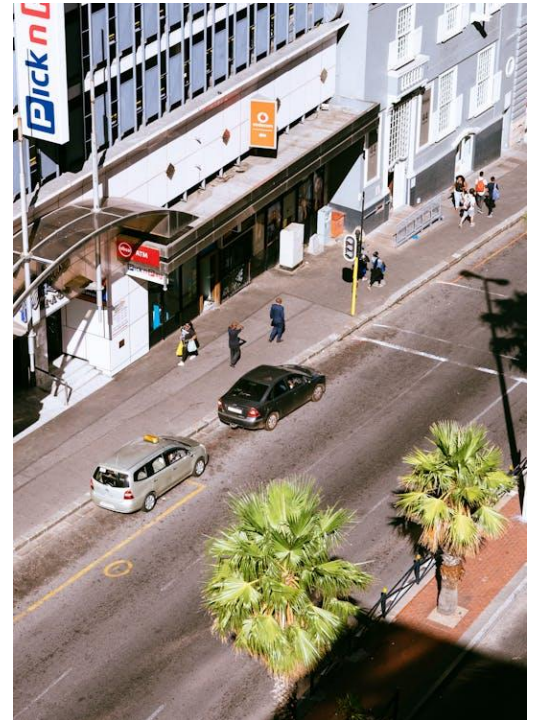
1. In one of the excuses for bad parking, why wasn't the sign visible?
2. What happened to another person's resident's permit?
3. Why did one of the people need to park on the yellow line?
4. Why did one of the people need to park next to the vet's?
5. Why did one of the people need to buy some new trousers?
6. Why couldn't one of the people buy a ticket at the pay-and-display machine?

Terrible excuses for bad parking!

When was the last time you were given a parking ticket? Did you pay it or contest it? According to recent statistics, more than 50% of those given a ticket try to get it **cancelled**. And the excuses for illegal parking run from the ordinary to the bizarre. Here are a few excuses which failed to impress.

- I didn't see the sign because the sun was in my eyes.
- There wasn't a sign that said I couldn't park there.
- I got in late and thought it would be OK to park my car there for the night, but then I forgot about it the next day.
- I was late for the theatre, and I didn't want to miss the start of the show.
- My friend told me it was OK to park there.
- The parrot inside my car knocked the resident's permit off the dashboard.
- I had some puppies in the car, and I needed to park it on a yellow line so I could watch over them while I was in the hairdresser's.
- I had an urgent need to go to the toilet, and simply didn't have time to get a parking ticket.
- I had to take my pet python to see the vet and I didn't want to carry it through the streets, so I parked the car next to the **veterinary clinic**.
- I was modelling in a life art class. For obvious reasons, I was unable to return to my vehicle when the pay-and-display ticket ran out.
- I spilt some coffee while I was driving in my car and I had to park next to a clothes shop to buy some new trousers.
- I couldn't buy a ticket at the pay-and-display machine because there was a vicious dog tied to it.

Whatever next?



Speaking

Summary

Give a **one-minute** summary of the text with your opinions on the ideas or information. Make sure you can see the script or vocabulary list so you can try to use any new words while you're speaking. While other students are speaking, think of questions to ask or comments to make based on what they've said. And/Or do the **role play** activity below.

Role play meeting – Should we reduce the access for cars in the centre?

You're in a city council meeting on the topic of parking, and in particular whether to restrict access for cars in the city centre. First, choose a role from below (or combine ideas to create a new role), and think about what you want to say. Then, when you're ready, explain what you think. When everyone has finished explaining their positions, ask follow-up questions or make further comments.

- **City mayor.** Listen to everyone's ideas. Then, decide what to do.
- **FOR: Council member:** you're in favour of more restrictions to limit the number of cars coming into the centre.
- **FOR: Environmentalist:** you want to reduce car usage and promote public sustainable transportation.
- **AGAINST: Local business owner:** you're concerned about how free access might affect customer visits to shops.
- **AGAINST: Resident:** you think that local residents should have access to the centre and be allowed to park freely.
- **AGAINST: Disability rep:** you represent people with reduced mobility who need to come into the centre by car.
- **NEUTRAL: Traffic and transportation authority agent:** Provide data and insights on traffic flow and safety.
- **NEUTRAL: Journalist:** you have mixed opinions on the issue.

City mayor start like this: *So, thanks everyone for coming in today. First, let's hear from...*

Try to use some of these linking words

Adding ideas	<i>In addition, On top of that, Also, Furthermore, Moreover,</i>
Contrasting ideas	<i>Although, However, On the other (hand), Despite, Despite the fact that...</i>
Conditions	<i>Unless, As long as, Provided that</i>
Results, consequences	<i>As a result, So, That's why, Therefore, In order to, Consequently, Since...</i>

Offering an opinion

- It's clear that...
- It's obvious that...
- I firmly believe...
- I think... because...
- In my opinion...
- It's true that... but...
- It's been shown that...
- There's some evidence to suggest that...
- There's no doubt in my mind that...
- A lot of people claim that...
- Some people claim that...
- It's clear that...
- Without a doubt,...
- I'm in favour of... / I'm against...

Challenging an opinion

- John, you said that... but...
- If I understood you correctly, you said that...
- So, you're saying that...
- What you seem to be implying is that...
- Why do you think that...?
- I agree that... / I disagree with that because...
- I agree with you about... However,...
- Do you really believe that...?
- Is it your opinion that...?
- What about...?
- What do you think of the report concerning...?
- Do you really think that people...?
- Do you really think that... is the best way to resolve this situation?
- Surely, if we... then...
- Where's the evidence to support your argument that...?

GRAMMAR: Past tense verbs!

Look at this extract from the reading text: *I didn't see the sign*. The speaker has used a past tense verb: *didn't see*. In this grammar section, we're looking at some past tense verbs. This will improve your spoken and written English.

Past tenses – an overview

- **Past Simple:** *He walked to work. / He didn't walk to work.*
- **Past Simple Passive:** *She was given the prize. / She wasn't given the prize.*
- **Past Continuous:** *We were working. / We weren't working.*
- **Past Continuous Passive:** *The rooms were being cleaned. / The rooms weren't being cleaned.*
- **Past Perfect:** *He had seen the film before. / He hadn't seen the film before.*
- **Past Perfect Passive:** *She had been paid a lot of money. / She hadn't been paid a lot of money.*

→ For lots more exercises and information on this grammar topic, please see our book *Speaking Grammar Drills*.

Questions

Answer any of the following questions with full answers. Invent and improvise, and give details where possible.

- Who did you see at the party? *I saw some friends from university who I hadn't seen for a long time.*
- What time did you leave the meeting?
- How much were they paid for the work?
- What were they given as compensation for the accident?
- Who was she talking to?
- Who called as she was watching the TV?
- Where were the cars being manufactured?
- Who were the computers being fixed by?
- Which monuments had they already visited when you got there?
- How many people had you spoken to by the time I got to the conference?
- How many countries had you visited by the time you were 20 years old?
- How much had they been paid after working there for two weeks?
- How many copies of the book had been sold after two years on the market?

Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Invent and improvise, and give details.

- As she was walking through the forest...
- I saw... at the cinema, which is all about...
- She was watching... on the TV at about 6pm when...
- He found... as he was walking to...
- Most of the guests had already... by the time we arrived.
- The criminals were...
- I was at... for most of the afternoon.
- They were trying to...
- We were given 10 minutes to...
- They were being told how to...
- I was being shown how to...
- They were paid... for doing...
- I was given some money for...
- I'd already seen... before, but it didn't matter because...
- Most people had already... by the time the police arrived.
- As I was walking home, I saw...
- While she was driving, she realised...
- We were shown... while we were visiting...

Transformation

Transform these sentences into negatives and then questions.

Example: He lived in London. = *He didn't live in London. / Did he live in London?*

1. They played tennis twice a week.
2. They were living in a small apartment.
3. She did the accounts once a year.
4. She was working from home yesterday.
5. They had eaten there before?

6. The airline flew to destinations all over the world.
7. They were paid a lot for the work.
8. She talked to them every day.
9. The cars were manufactured in this factory.
10. He was speaking to his boss.
11. He wanted to leave early.
12. The rooms were being cleaned at 11am.
13. They had been informed of the changes.

Free speaking

Use the topics below (or any others) to speak for about 30-60 seconds. Use as many different past tense verbs as you can. Your sentences can be random or connected to a theme – as you like. Before starting, read over the example below. You could make it into a competition to see who can use the most past tenses.

Last weekend!

On Saturday morning, I was at home. I was working in the garden mostly. At about 11 am, a friend called, and we went to a café to have a mid-morning snack. While we were there, we talked about our upcoming holiday plans. Later that day, I visited the local museum. On Sunday, the weather was beautiful, so I took a long walk in the park. In the evening, I cooked dinner for my family, and we watched a movie together.

On Sunday morning, I was at home, sipping my favourite coffee. The sun was shining through the window, casting a warm glow on the wooden floor. I spent hours in the garden, tending to the roses and pulling out weeds. Around noon, my neighbour knocked on the door, inviting me to a barbecue. We grilled steaks and shared stories about our childhood adventures. On Sunday evening, I took a leisurely bike ride along the river. In the evening, I cooked a meal for my family. As the sun set, I reflected on the simple joys of weekends that I had enjoyed.

Topics

- Last weekend.
- A day trip you took to a nearby town or city.
- A project you worked on recently.
- A book you read that had an impact on you.
- A meal you cooked that turned out well.
- An exercise routine you followed.
- A new skill you learnt.
- A night out with friends.
- A family gathering you attended.
- A goal you achieved.
- A competition you entered.
- A festival you went to.
- An exhibition you saw.
- A museum you visited.
- A business trip you went on.
- A sporting event you attended.
- A trip you organised.
- A concert you went to.
- A meeting at work.



LISTENING: Presentation panic!

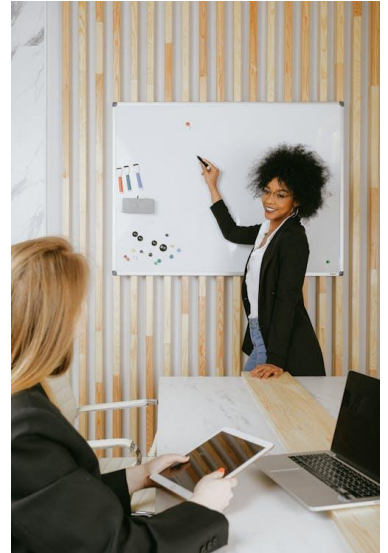
In this lesson there's a discussion activity, some useful vocabulary, an audio recording and a related speaking activity.

Discussion: Things that make us nervous!

Read over the list below of things that make people nervous or anxious. Choose 1 or 2 and give details, explaining why they make you nervous, and what happened to you in any related incident/s.

A list of things that make us nervous! Part 1

- Giving a speech or presentation at work – will I be able to speak well?
- Having to stand up during a meeting and say something – will I say the right thing?
- Being asked to go and see the boss – what have I done wrong?
- Finding a parking space when you're late for an appointment – will I ever find somewhere to park?
- Waiting for a response to a text or e-mail you sent – how are they going to respond?
- Waiting to see how people respond to a photo or message you posted on social media. Will my friends 'like' it?
- Having a minor illness – maybe it's something serious?
- Booking holiday flights – did you get the dates right?
- Booking a hotel or Airbnb – will it turn out well?
- Taking your car to the garage – how much are they going to charge me?
- Getting a letter from a government office, such as the tax authorities – what do I owe them for now?



A list of things that make us nervous! Part 2

- Getting a message from the bank – is there a problem with my account?
- Trying to order food at a busy restaurant – is the waiter deliberately ignoring me?
- Driving during rush hour – will I ever make it to work on time?
- A police car is behind you – are they going to stop me?
- Getting your hair done – will they make a mess of my hair?
- Getting a phone call – what do they want? What's happened? What have I done?
- Wondering whether you turned off the oven – is the house going to burn down?
- Finding out you've been mispronouncing a word your whole life – which other words have I been mispronouncing?
- Bumping into someone you didn't expect to see – what are we going to talk about?
- Someone not accepting your friend request immediately – don't they like me?
- Not having enough money – will I be able to pay for things this month?
- Going to a party on your own – will I meet anyone? Will anyone talk to me?
- Traffic lights – will I be able to stop in time if it starts turning amber then red?
- When someone says, 'We need to talk' or 'Can I ask you a question?' – what are they going to say?
- You think you sent the e-mail to the wrong person – did I send the e-mail to the right person?



Vocabulary

If you know the word, explain it. If not, read the sentence and guess. [The **bold** part shows which syllable is stressed.]

- **To think about** = There are 3 options on the table and we have to think **about** which one to accept.
- **To go for a run** = I was feeling a bit stressed so I went for a quick run around the park, which helped.
- **To move** = This house is too small for us so we're moving to a bigger one next month.
- **To tell someone a joke** = I started the speech by telling the audience a joke, which made them laugh.
- **Can't stop** = The story she told me was really funny, and now I can't stop laughing about it.
- **To announce** = The government announced that they would invest \$500 million in R&D.
- **Nervous about** = I start my new job tomorrow and I'm nervous about my first day.
- **To give a speech / presentation** = I gave a speech to over 1,000 people on the benefits of walking.
- **To fret** = A: I'm worried because I've got a job interview tomorrow. B: Stop fretting! You'll be fine!
- **To be in two minds** = I'm in two minds about which shoes to wear: the red ones or the black ones.
- **To look forward to** = Thanks for inviting me to the party. I'm really looking forward to it.
- **An aspect** = I know you like your job, but which aspects of it do you like the most?
- **To turn violent** = The demonstration turned violent after the police started arresting protesters.
- **To talk nonsense** = That's simply not true, and your suggestions are ridiculous. You're talking nonsense!
- **What a relief!** = A: The client signed the contract last night. B: Phew! What a relief!
- **To be in trouble** = I have to finish this report by 2pm, and if I don't, I'll be in trouble with my boss.
- **To stand up in front of** = I have a presentation tomorrow and I have stand up in front of over 200 people.
- **To take your mind off** = Going out with friends is a good way to take your mind off any stressful problems.

Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

*mind trouble **announced** moving minds aspects about gave telling*

1. The government **announced** that they would invest \$500 million in R&D.
2. I know you like your job, but which _____ of it do you like the most?
3. Going out with friends is a good way to take your _____ off any stressful problems.
4. I was just thinking _____ the time that we missed the train on the way to the conference and...
5. I'm in two _____ about which shoes to wear: the red ones or the black ones.
6. I started the speech by _____ the audience a joke, which made them laugh.
7. I have to finish this report by 2pm, and if I don't, I'll be in _____ with my boss.
8. This house is too small for us so we're _____ to a bigger one next month.
9. I _____ a speech to over 1,000 people on the benefits of walking.

Speaking from the vocabulary!

Answer 1 or 2 of the questions related to the vocabulary.

- What have you been **thinking about** lately? What do you need to start thinking about? Why?
- How often do you **go for a run**? How far do you run?
- When was the last time you **moved house**? Why? What was the move like?
- Do you know how to **tell any jokes**? Tell us one now!
- Describe a time when you **couldn't stop laughing**. What was happening?
- What has the government **announced** lately? What effect could it have on you?
- What have you been **nervous about** recently? Why?
- What are your top tips for **giving a speech** or presentation?
- Describe a speech or presentation that you gave. What were you talking about?
- Who do you know who tends to fret or worry about things? What do they typically fret about?
- What are you **in two minds** about? What have you been in two minds about in the past?
- What are you **looking forward to**? Why?
- What aspects of your job do you like the most? Why?
- What situations turned violent in your country in the past? Why?
- Who has been talking nonsense lately? What were they talking about?
- When was the last time you thought, 'What a relief!?' What were you referring to?
- When was the last time you were in trouble? What had you done?
- When was the last time you had to stand up in front of a group of people and say something? What did you say?
- What do you do to take your mind off things?

Listening: Presentation panic!

You're going to listen to a conversation with someone who has to give a speech. Do the exercises. Then, do the related speaking activity.

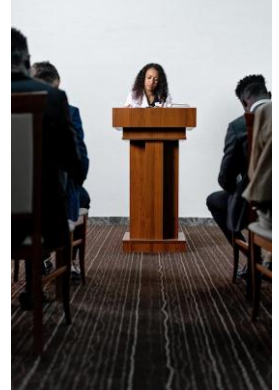
Listening 1

Greg has to give a speech at work. He's a bit worried about it. Listen once. How well prepared is he?

Listening 2

Listen again and answer the questions below.

1. How many people will attend the talk?
2. What does Adrian suggest he should do to take his mind off it?
3. What's the talk about?
4. How well prepared is Greg's speech?
5. What tips does Adrian give about preparing for it?
6. What time does Greg have to give the speech? When is that?



Listening 3

Read over the script (see below). Then, listen again while reading at the same time to improve your listening skills.

Script

Greg: I've got to give this talk and I'm really nervous about it.

Adrian: Stop worrying! You'll be fine.

G: But I just can't stop thinking about it. I've got to stand up in front of 500 employees.

A: You'll be fine! Why don't you go for a run or something? It'll take your mind off things.

G: Mmm... maybe. You know, I'm not really sure how I should start. Do you think I should tell them a joke? I'm also in two minds about what to wear.

A: Stop fretting! What's the talk about, anyway?

G: We're moving to an office up north – about 300 kilometres away. I've got to announce the change and try to sell it to them, you know, explain the positive aspects of it. I'm not looking forward to it. What if it turns violent?

A: Stop talking nonsense! Oh, I know. Why don't you practise it with me?

G: I can't.

A: Why?

G: Well, I haven't prepared it yet.

A: No wonder you're nervous. You can't stand up in front of 500 people and talk without any preparation.

G: Well, that's what I did last time.

A: Well that explains it. Look, you need to write out a plan of what you're going to say, then practise it. Once you've done that, you'll feel a lot better.

G: Ah, yes, that sounds good. What a relief! I'm feeling a lot more relaxed already.

A: So, when are you giving the speech?

G: At 4pm.

A: 4pm? When?

G: Today – in about half an hour.

A: Oh, well, then you'd better start panicking! You're in big trouble!

G: I told you!

Speaking

Summary

Give a **one-minute** summary of the text with your opinions on the ideas or information. And/Or do the **presentation** activity below.

Presentation

Prepare a one-minute presentation on a topic of your choice, or choose from the list below. Use notes, don't write it out word for word. Speak non-stop for a minute without any pauses or hesitation

Presentation topics: *Pets, Work, Hobbies, Football, Travel, Music, Books, Sports, Technology, Food, Movies, Fashion, Environment, History, Science, Art, Education, Health, Culture, Space, Social Media, Gardening, Photography, Meditation, Cooking, Languages, Animals, Festivals, Architecture, Theatre, Mythology, Astronomy, Fitness, Mental Health, Volunteering, Entrepreneurship, Robotics, Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Virtual Reality, Gaming. Other?*

Useful language

- In today's talk, I'm going to...
- I'm going to tell you 3 things about...
- Firstly, it's...
- Secondly, there are...
- And finally, it's...
- First, I'm going to...
- Then, I'm going to...
- After that, I'm going to...
- So, to conclude, I've told you...
- In conclusion...
- To summarise...
- In summary...