

Developing Speaking

Effective Strategies for Professional
Presentations

The Nature of Learning

Balancing Knowledge with Creativity

Listening audio Homework

| Two Pillars of Education

Knowledge & Facts

Learning specific information, dates, and historical events. This forms the foundation of understanding.

Example: Reciting names of world leaders or key milestones in history.

Skills & Imagination

Applying knowledge through creativity, critical thinking, and role-play. This brings facts to life.

Example: Analyzing the motives behind historical events or debating current affairs.

1

SPEAKING



Read about learning. Think about the two aspects of learning in the text and answer the questions.

We could say that at school you learn either **knowledge and facts** (e.g. important people, dates and events in history) or you learn and apply **skills, creativity and imagination** (e.g. doing a role-play about life in the past or thinking critically about how and why historical events happened).



- 1 Why is it a good idea to learn the two different aspects?
- 2 Are there any problems learning them?



2

SPEAKING



Discuss what you think it is more important to learn at school, knowledge and facts or skills, creativity and imagination. Give reasons.

Integrating the Two Aspects

- ✓ **Holistic Understanding:** Facts provide the "what," while skills provide the "how" and "why."
- ✓ **Real-World Application:** Employers value the ability to apply information over rote memorization.
- ✓ **Critical Thinking:** Skills like creativity help students navigate complex, unscripted situations.
- ✓ **Student Engagement:** Active learning (role-play, brainstorming) increases motivation and retention.

1. Knowledge and Facts

This is the **foundation** of learning. It focuses on the "what," "who," and "when." It involves memorizing information that is generally fixed and objective.

- Rote memorization, data collection, and historical accuracy.
- **Examples:**
 - **Geography:** Learning the names of capital cities or the heights of mountain ranges.
 - **Literature:** Recalling the names of characters in a novel or the year a famous poem was published.

2. Skills, Creativity, and Imagination

This is the **application** of learning. It focuses on the "how" and "why." Instead of just knowing a fact, you use your mind to interpret, create, or solve problems based on that information.

- Critical thinking, empathy, problem-solving, and original expression.
- **Examples:**
 - **Geography:** Discussing how climate change might affect the economy of a specific coastal city.
 - **Literature:** Writing a journal entry from the perspective of a character to understand their motivations.

1. Why is it a good idea to learn the two different aspects?

Learning both **knowledge/facts** and **skills/creativity** creates a well-rounded education because they support one another:

- **Context and Substance:** Facts provide the "raw material." You can't think critically about history if you don't know who the key figures were or when events occurred.
- **Application and Meaning:** Skills and imagination allow you to use those facts. Instead of just memorizing a date, you use creativity (like role-play) to understand the *human experience* behind the date.
- **Critical Thinking:** Combining the two allows you to move beyond "what happened" to "why it happened," which is essential for problem-solving in the real world.

2. Are there any problems learning them?

While both are necessary, finding a balance can be difficult:

- **Information Overload:** If a curriculum focuses too much on **knowledge and facts**, students may feel overwhelmed by memorization and lose interest because the subject feels "dry."
- **Lack of Structure:** Conversely, if there is too much focus on **imagination and creativity** without a foundation of facts, the learning might lack depth or accuracy.
- **Assessment Difficulties:** It is very easy to test "facts" with a simple quiz, but it is much harder to objectively grade "creativity" or "critical thinking," which can lead to schools prioritizing facts over skills.

The Speaking Bank

Essential Phrases to Structure Your Talk

Navigating Your Presentation



Beginning

"I'd like to begin by saying..."

"First of all, I'd like to talk
about..."



Ordering

"Firstly... Secondly..."

"Furthermore... What's more..."

Handling Multiple Perspectives

Presenting Opposing Views

"You can't deny that..."

"There's no denying that..."

"Whilst it's true that..."

Responding to Views

"Having said that..."

"That doesn't alter my opinion..."

"I accept that... but..."

Navigating Your Presentation



Concluding

"Returning to my main point..."

"To sum up..."

4 Complete the Speaking bank with these expressions from the presentation.

1 The first thing I'd like to say is ...

2 However, ...

3 First of all, ...

4 Whilst it's true that ...

5 ... this does not mean that ...

6 Another important point to make is that ...

7 Finally, ...

8 I accept that ...

9 To sum up, ...

Speaking bank

Useful expressions to structure a presentation

Beginning your presentation

- I'd like to begin by saying ...
- To start with ...

• _____

Ordering your arguments

• _____

- Firstly, ... / Secondly, ...

• _____

- Furthermore, ... / What's more, ...
- It's important to remember that ...
- It's also true that ...

Presenting opposing points of view

• _____

- You can't deny that ...
- There's no denying that ...
- You can't argue with the fact that ...

• _____

- I admit that ...

Responding to opposing points of view

• _____

• _____

- Let's not forget that ...
- I would still say that ...
- Even so, I still believe that ...
- Having said that, ...
- That doesn't alter my opinion that ...

Concluding your presentation

• _____

• _____

- Returning to my main point, ...
- In short, ...

Exam Tip: Audience Connection

Engage, don't just read.

Use your notes to help you remember what to say and to give your presentation structure.

Look at your audience and make eye contact. This builds trust and keeps your listeners interested in your topic.



Preparation Strategy

From Brainstorming to Delivery

The 5-Step Presentation Guide

Present your strongest
argument first for maximum
impact.
2. Main Point

Respond logically to those
opposing points of view.
4. Counterarguments

1. State Opinion

Begin by clearly stating your
stance on the topic.

3. Opposing View

Acknowledge what others
might say against your view.

5. Conclusion

Restate your opinion and
summarize key arguments.

5

SPEAKING



Look at this topic and brainstorm ideas.

How well does university help students deal with life outside university and prepare them for life after school?

Practice Topic

Topic Spotlight

Life Prep

REAL WORLD READINESS

"How well does university help students deal with life outside university and prepare them for life after school?"



Questions?

Thank you for your attention!



Image Sources



<https://learningmole.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/image-39.jpeg>

Source: learningmole.com



https://img.freepik.com/premium-photo/group-diverse-students-library-smiling-stacking-hands-young-adults-teamwork-study-diverse-students-collaborating-library-setting-diverse-high-school-students-unity_53876-1089330.jpg

Source: www.freepik.com