

Academic Speaking Practice

This resource outlines strategies to develop your speaking fluency for the courses you are taking.

Why academic speaking practice?

Have you ever had the feeling that you know the answer to the instructor’s question but you don’t feel confident enough to give an answer? This learning plan can help you develop fluency in academic speaking.

Why should I do extra work to prepare beforehand?

By having something prepared beforehand, you are using your time with an English Language Learning Specialist (ELLS) much more efficiently.

How should I practice?

Generally, there are two options for how the Learning Centre can help you develop your speaking fluency.

	Option 1: Verbal vocabulary review	Option 2: Discussion and mini presentations
Goals	Develop verbal fluency for the terminology (vocabulary words and expressions) that you need for your classes. New or useful words from your weekly course materials will be the focus of this option.	Verbally review what you’ve learned during your classes. Verbally reviewing new concepts and ideas from your respective classes will be the focus of this option.
Work to do on your own	Before every session, prepare a list of new terminology (10-15 depending on the length of the session) from the current week. Try your best to learn them so that you can explain them to your ELLS.	Before every session, bring a current presentation you’re working on for class or prepare a mini presentation (usually 5-10 minutes). The topic can be anything that is related to the course you’re taking this term. The presentation doesn’t have to be formal; it can be structured as a discussion if you prefer.
What you will do with your ELLS	During the session, you’ll explain the words you’ve learned to your ELLS. Think of it as you’re teaching vocabulary to your friends/classmates. The ELLS will be listening to your explanation and taking notes as needed. When you have finished the list of new words, they will give you feedback on pronunciation, word choice, grammar, and anything else the tutor noticed during your explanation.	During the session, you will deliver the presentation. The ELLS will be listening to your explanation and taking notes as needed. If appropriate, they will ask questions to help you explain concepts more completely. When you have finished explaining the concepts, the ELLS will give you feedback on pronunciation, word choice, grammar, and anything else they noticed during your explanation.