

Self-Introduction

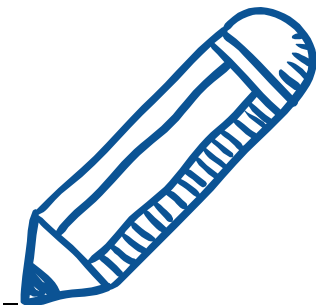
What Is a Self-Introduction Speech?



It is an act of introducing yourself to a large or small group of people.

Oral English classes open with speeches that ask you to introduce yourself or a classmate.

They help you get to know your classmates as you discover the interests, experiences, and quirks 怪癖 that make for interesting individuals. As a consequence, they create a receptive atmosphere to help you grow as communicators and discover your voice.



**The following advice can help
you introduce yourself
clearly and confidently in a
wide range of circumstances.**

Let's use a self-awareness
inventory with the
following questions:

➤ How has your hometown or childhood environment influenced you?

To share my world, come up with me to the Tennessee River. We'll take a boat ride to New Johnsonville, where Civil War gunboats still lie on the bottom of the river. You'll see how the sun makes the water sparkle. You'll see the green hills sloping down to the river and the rocky cliffs.

➤ What special person has had a major impact on your life?

Margaret Hasty was my “Memmma,” the kind of grandmother that always embraced me with a big hug, and always seemed to have a stash of my favorite cookies nearby. Martha Clark Akers was “Grandmother” —very strict, very formal and always concerned with my progress in school and whether I was making the “right decisions.”

➤ Were you shaped by an unusual accomplishment or experience?

When my parents departed, they had to leave my sister and me on our own. Luckily, we had cousins who lived in Gorazde long before the war began. They took us in, and I can tell you that if it hadn't been for them, we would have starved to death. Days passed, and each day we waited for our parents. And our fears began to grow. We heard rumors that they had run into minefields and been killed. We felt very much alone and scared.

➤ Does a favorite activity or hobby add meaning to your life?

I don't let the little frustrations bother me and I keep going, no matter what happens. In golf, even though you hit a bad shot, you still have to go on and hit the next one. You can't walk off the course just because things aren't going your way. College life is the same way. If you have a bad day or do poorly on a test, you can't just give up and go home. You have to move up to the next tee and keep swinging.

➤ How does your work help define you as an individual?

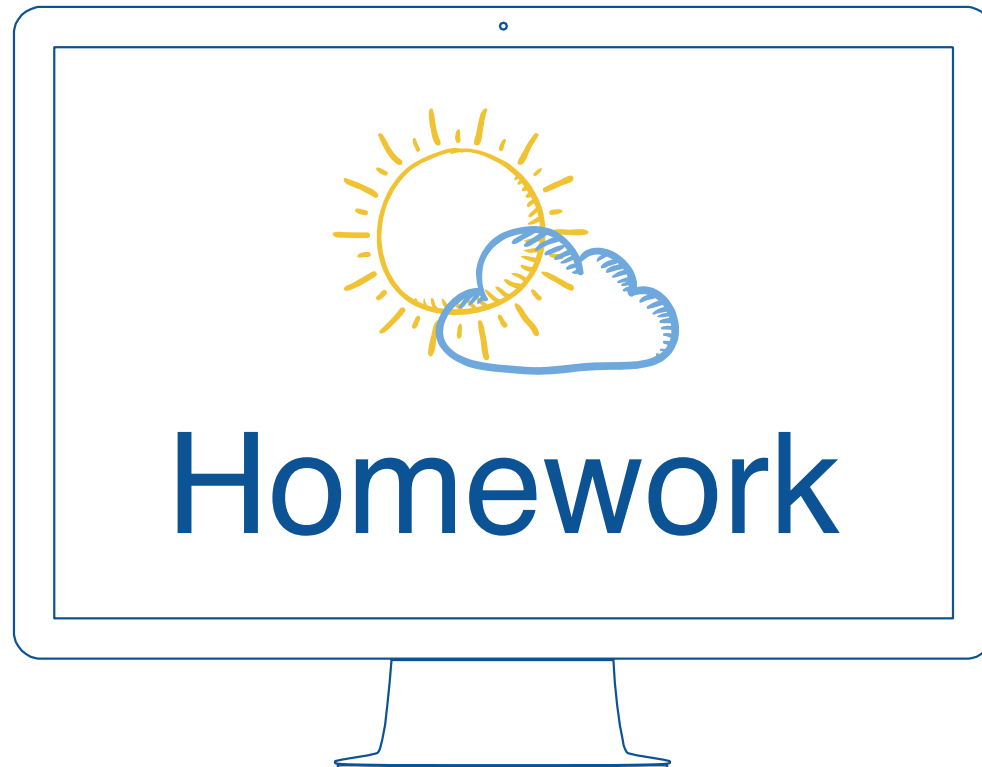
An adult will think I'm foolish, weird, or just insane. But to a child I'm funny, caring, and a friend. Children have taught me so much. They have inspired me to dream again and be creative. A child playing in the backyard can take a broom and turn it one way and it's a horse waiting to ride. Turn it another, and it's a hockey stick. Turn it still another, and it becomes a telescope through which she can see the universe.

➤ What special goal or purpose in life is meaningful to you?

Finishing college means a lot to me now, even if that means working by day and attending school by night. The first time I enrolled, right out of high school, I blew it. All I cared about was sports, girls, and partying. Even though I have a respectable job that pays well, I feel bad about not finishing a degree. My wife's diploma hangs on our den wall. All I have there is a stuffed duck!

➤ How do your values help define who you are?

When you are one of thirteen, you learn to get along with others. You have no choice. You learn to work together without whining and complaining. And you learn to love—not noisy shows of affection—just quiet caring that fills the house with warmth and strength.



Prepare a
90-second
self introduction
for week 2

Pay attention to
your time and the
form of
introduction.