



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

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**English – II (Advanced English)**

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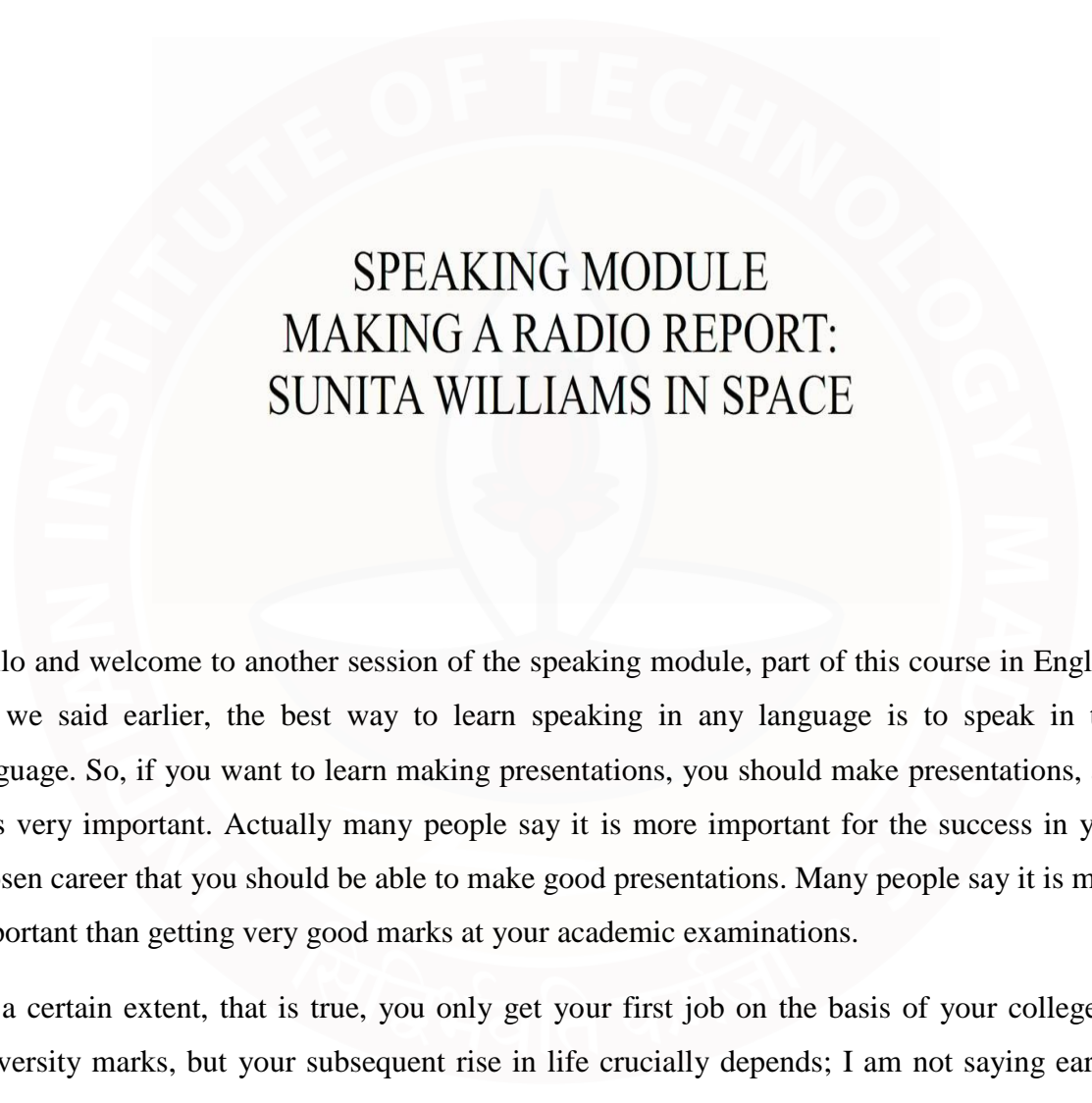
**Retired Professor**

**Humanities and Social Science**

**Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai**

**Making a Radio Report**

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## **SPEAKING MODULE MAKING A RADIO REPORT: SUNITA WILLIAMS IN SPACE**

Hello and welcome to another session of the speaking module, part of this course in English. As we said earlier, the best way to learn speaking in any language is to speak in that language. So, if you want to learn making presentations, you should make presentations, and it is very important. Actually many people say it is more important for the success in your chosen career that you should be able to make good presentations. Many people say it is more important than getting very good marks at your academic examinations.

To a certain extent, that is true, you only get your first job on the basis of your college or university marks, but your subsequent rise in life crucially depends; I am not saying earlier degrees become useless, they are, of course, and they continue to be useful to you for the rest of your life, but your subsequent rise in life after your first job does not happen because you were a first-class B.tech from IIT Madras because you had gold medal here.

Your subsequent rise is more significantly caused by the way you manage your groups, the way you work in a group, the way you fit into a team, the way you are able to inspire and

participate in teamwork and for all that to happen well, it is important that you should know in making good presentations.

Many companies have made it a compulsory part of their recruitment process today, you know. Rather than giving you a written test, or in addition to giving you a written test, they also ask you to make a presentation or getting to engage in a group discussion and that sort of thing. Therefore, it is important for us to learn how to make, you know, short effective and focused presentations on given topics.

In this session today, we are going to give you practice. We have been speaking about theory, about principles, and I said, you know, more than your pronunciation, more than your clothes, more than your slides, it is your knowledge of the subject that will help you make a better presentation.

It is your ability, it is your preparation, the time you have given deciding, asking yourself and deciding what you will say first, what you will say next will help you make a good presentation, rather than only your pronunciation. I am not saying pronunciation is unimportant; I am not saying grammar or vocabulary is unimportant, they are important, but they are nothing unless you have something to say and unless you know your topic well enough.

Like you know, television reporters, like newspaper reporters, have other props, they do not, their dependence upon the world is not as much as is that of a reporter who writes, and neither of these two reporters depends upon words as much as does a radio reporter because a radio reporter has not only has to tell you, not only has to tell us what has happened, what has been said.

They also have to tell us where that has happened; they also have to tell us how that place looks like, how those people look like, what kind of crowds are there. What kind of place that is? So, their dependence upon words is ultimate, is extreme. They must be very articulate to describe not only what has been said, not only what has happened but also where it has happened, who are the people, how do they appear etc. etc.

There may be different kinds of things in one sentence you can say; they have to translate everything visual or verbal into words. Therefore, it is important for us in making a presentation as well to take everything into account and then make a presentation telling as much as possible within the given time and as is necessary for the topic. 2 things once again,

we should say everything that is possible within the given time, if you have only 2 minutes, you can say enough only for 2 minutes.

But in those 2 minutes, you must say all that will do justice to the topic that will give a fair representation to all parts of the topic you are speaking about. If we remember these two things and if we prepare, we will surely make good radio reports, good oral reports. And good radio reports means good ability in language; if you are a good radio reporter, you can practically do anything. You can talk about anything equally well or better.

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- Watch the following video. It is rather a long video, but you need not watch it for more than four minutes.
- While watching,
  1. Make a note of names of different
  2. Words specific to space travel
  3. Sequence of sights and actions
  4. Any differences between these in space and on the earth, and anything else

So, here we go, we have an example, we are going to play you a video, it is rather a long video, a very interesting one, you know. Because we do not have enough time so we will play it for under 4 minutes, but you can watch all of it, and you can watch other videos like it; there are plenty. Just see what happens; knowledge is your best investment; the more you invest in acquiring knowledge, the greater your chances of doing well in life.

So, even if we are going to play it only for under 4 minutes, you can watch it for full length and while watching, make a note of names of different things. This speaker here introduces a variety of things, make a mental note or even a written note of things like names, places, objects.

There may also be because you know this video has been taken from a space travel actually, the presentation is made by an astronaut of Indian origin, a lady called Sunita Williams. Please look up the relevant link to learn more about Sunita Williams. She is one of the space

scientists who stayed in the space station for over four months making experiments and studying life and the effects of living in a gravity-free place.

So, you know a lot of people are curious about the life of this kind. If there is no gravity, what happens? When you drink a cup of tea, does tea fly away from the cup? How do you eat? How do you write? How do you stand? How do you sleep? How do you walk? How you do your everyday things like washing your mouth or washing other parts of your body?

What happens if you spill a glass of water or a cup of water, a spoon full of water, where does the water go? What happens to that? So, there are a lot of space-related curiosities among people on the earth. Not all of them but some of them have been answered by this speaker Sunita Williams in space. So, please make a note of words that are specific to space travel.

Then of course, like a radio reporter to make a good report go in a sequence, make a note of what you see first, what you see next and actions, like that, happens first, that happened next. If you remember these things, you will make a good radio report, and then there may be other things that can attract you, for example, what kind of costume do a space travellers wear, are they always in that space gear?

Where you cannot distinguish between a man and a machine? Or do they also, on occasions, dress like we do at home on earth? So, there may be other things for you to note; please make a note of them but remember, no matter how long your notes, you only have 2 minutes to talk about them.

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- Imagine you are a radio reporter and you have seen Ms. Sunitha Williams giving this presentation. Its about a eight minutes presentation, but you have watched it at least for four minutes.
- You can watch it more than once with or without the subtitles.
- But, finally, make a two minutes radio report on what you have seen and heard.

So we will come to that a little later; let us once again repeat, imagine you are a radio reporter and you have seen Miss. Sunita Williams, a space scientist and astronaut, making a presentation about life in outer space beyond the gravitational pull of the earth, it is rather a long video as I said, it is about 8 minutes, watch it up to 4 minutes, you can watch the rest of it later.

And then, first watch it without subtitles so that you really get curious about the accent and you are tuned to pick up those words when they come to you but first, even if it is challenging, even if it is difficult for you, even if you do not understand much of it, please watch it without subtitles.

Then rewind and watch it with subtitles so that you understand the concepts but finally make a 2-minute report, radio report on whatever you have seen and whatever you have heard. A perfect work, perfect job may not be possible in the first go but begin a 4-minute report with 3 minutes, then cut it to 2 and a half and then cut it to 2.

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- You can take notes while watching, and later you can speak from your notes.
- In the beginning it may not be a bad idea to write and then speak.
- But eventually you must record your presentation and share it with friends and reviewers.
- In the light of the feedback, if any, that you may receive, you might like to make another presentation.
- A summary of whatever is said and seen has been given at the end of this unit.

Maybe 2 or 3 attempts while watching, you can take notes and later you can also speak from those notes; that is the advantage radio reporters have. Nobody knows where they are speaking from notes or from their memory. So, in the beginning, it may not be a bad idea for you to write and then to speak but remember you should reduce your dependence upon the written text; it takes away your naturalness from you unless you are of course a great actor.



So, as far as possible, try and be without notes, look at it carefully, try and remember facts and then speak, trust yourself, you might make a mistake or 2 in the beginning, but as you go on, you will learn all those skills of remembering and using relevant facts at relevant moments. So, record your presentation and share it with friends and reviewers with us and then if there is any feedback, we will give it you, in light of the feedback, you might revise your presentation and do it once over again, submit it to us again. Let your friends know about it, and this is how by doing it again and again, you reach perfection.

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**VIDEO CLIP**

**Video link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doN4t5NKW-k>  
Please watch the section 00:00 – 4.00

**Source:** NASA

**Video description:** Sunita Williams, gives a detailed tour of how astronauts live in space.  
We are using four minutes of this video for academic purposes.



The link is given, watch it on your own and as many times as you like as slow or rapidly as you like but do all those things that we have suggested and check and recheck whether you can or doing it right?

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## ACTIVITY

- Find similar videos and make similar reports and share them with your family, friends and us.

Look at similar stuff, look at similar things 1 or 2 short videos not too long, not about 40 minutes, 30 minutes long things. Not that they are bad, but you know you cannot make a short report on long documents already done. So, go for this kind of things, small activities, at least at the practice stage and then make reports on them, check with friends and check with your reviewers and in the light of the feedback, revise your presentation because this is how you can become a better and still better speaker.

There is no other way, and the more you do of these things, not only your confidence in yourself will increase, you will rise your ability with language will also get better. Your general knowledge will get better, and your sense of what is right, how to learn, how to progress in life will also get better.

These have multi-dimensional effects, and today you have no dearth of materials of this kind; all you have to do is to wish it, go to YouTube or Google, and as the story goes, you set open Samsung, and you get it like Alibaba, you can get anything you wish. All you need is to know what you want and what use you want to put it to? Do as many as you like and share your work with us, and then we will move on. Thank you very much and good luck.