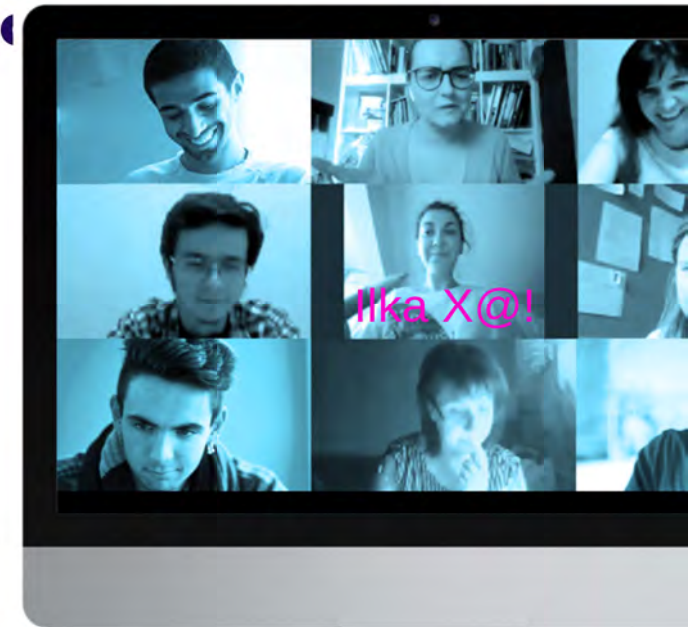


Humour and other ways to engage

Theme:
Winning Presentations

Before we start, please make sure...

- ✓ **your name on Zoom is clear (use Latin letters)**
- ✓ **your camera is on and mic is off (unmute when needed)**
- ✓ **you are in a quiet area that helps you focus**
- ✓ **you have a notebook or a note app ready to take notes**

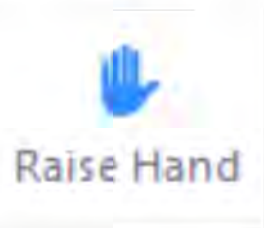


Virtual learning tools

1



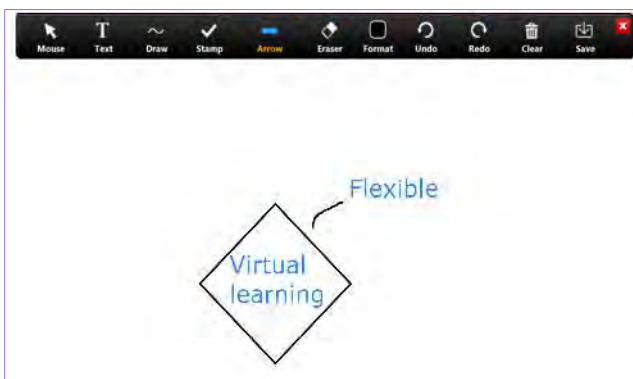
Unmute and share your response if you are instructed to (run the audio setup to check your mic).



Raise your virtual **hand** to participate.

2

Participate in whiteboard and on-screen activities using **annotation tools**.



3

Follow instructions and use specific **annotation tools** from the dropdown menus.

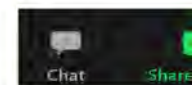
4

Use the **chat** to share ideas and answers.

To: Everyone
That's a great idea! :-)

Send your message to **everyone**.

Use **react** to give feedback signal you



How does it work?



You need to complete all three parts to get the most out of your course.

Prepare before class



Live class
+
After-class speaking session
(optional)



Practise after class

After-class speaking session

Stay back after class for 5 or 10 minutes to talk to your classmates from around the world.

This extra speaking practice will help you...

- improve your conversation skills
- practise using language learnt in class
- support and help your fellow students
- practise using English in a natural context
- become a part of a global learning community



Pre-class activities

Prepare before class



Connecting with the audience



Building audience trust



Humour in presentations

Your learning journey

As a result of this lesson, you should be better able to establish a connection with the audience by adopting techniques to create interactivity and use humour to make the presentation memorable.

You will find out about...

- how to build connection and trust with your audience
- how to make your presentation interactive
- when and how to use humour with different audiences

You will practise delivering a short presentation introduction using humour.



Lead-in

Think about the last presentation you attended:

- Did you feel like that presentation was rushed and the presenter didn't take time to connect with the audience?

OR

- Did the presenter manage to connect with the audience and if so, how was that achieved?

Now think about the last presentation you delivered:

- How did you create a connection with your audience?
- What did you do to overcome possible resistance to the ideas you were trying to introduce?
- Is there anything you would change if you had to do that presentation again?

Skills focus 1: Making presentations interactive

Have you ever checked emails/sent text messages or fallen asleep during a presentation?

How can you try to ensure that doesn't happen while you are presenting?

Write as many ideas as you can think of. The longer your list of ideas, the better.

Is there any unique suggestion you found?

Think back to your last face-to-face or online presentation.

Which of the idea(s) could you have incorporated and how?

Skills focus 2: Humour in presentations

- **Have you ever used humour in your presentations?**
- **Why did you choose to use it at those particular moments?**
- **What are the different ways you can use humour during your presentations?**

Skills focus 3: Humour in presentations (extra)

- a. **Start with a laugh** – It's a good way to forge an early bond, lighten the mood and signal to the audience they're with someone likeable. Once trust is secured, audiences are more open to your topic/message.
- b. **Get personal** – Share a short but relevant anecdote from your own life. It can endear your audience to you and your ideas.
- c. **Be self-deprecating (*meaning: diminish/belittle oneself*)** – Being a little vulnerable helps your audience feel closer to you. Your honesty helps clear the path to adopting your ideas. *Don't go too far though as you don't want to make the audience cringe with pity.*
- d. **Be balanced** – Contrast helps bring focus to key parts of your presentation. Mix humour with a thoughtful insight or data to make it more memorable.

Skills focus 4: Humour in presentations

- **Copy** the link from the chat.
- **One group member** 'share screen' in the breakout room.
- **Watch** only the part of the video indicated (**timestamp given on the slide**).
- Refer to the **relevant transcript** (document shared to chat)
- **Discuss** what kinds of humour has the presenter used

Sir Ken Robinson's **Do Schools Kill Creativity?** is one of the most watched TED Talks with 65m views

00.00 – 1:60

Group A

Dan Pink has had over 10m views of his TED Talk **Puzzle of Motivation**

00.00 – 01.45

Group B

Bill Gates on **Mosquitoes, Malaria and Education**

4:03 – 5:17

Group C

Skills focus 4: Humour in presentations

Group A:

Sir Ken Robinson's - Do schools kill creativity?

He uses humour throughout to entertain his audience while talking about a serious subject.

Starts with a laugh and is **self-deprecating**

Group B:

Dan Pink - The Puzzle of Motivation

From the outset, Dan sets the tone – he's being honest (**be personal and self-deprecating**) and his use of humour, while building his argument, clears a path to getting his ideas adopted

Group C:

Bill Gates - Mosquitoes, malaria and education

Be balanced – Bill starts the first 4 mins with a lot of serious data about trends in child mortality. His demo and prop are not just humorous, but they also make the serious issue of malaria eradication tangible and memorable.

Task



Task: Prepare – making your presentation engaging



❖ Work on the **introduction** of your presentation

❖ Plan:

- How you will connect with your audience
- What interactive activities you will use
- When and how you will use humour

Task: presenting your ideas

Presenter

- ❖ Present your introduction (1-2 mins) to your group

Audience

- ❖ After each presentation, provide feedback to your peer on how effectively they engaged with the audience





Task: feedback

Your learning journey: assess your progress

Now you are better able to establish a connection with the audience by adopting techniques to make the presentation memorable.

You have found out about...

- how to build connection and trust with your audience
- how to make your presentation interactive
- when and how to use humour with different audiences

You have practised delivering a short introduction for your own presentation.



What's next?

Don't forget to complete your 'Practice after class Activities'

Practice after class



Engagement checklist

Here are a few useful reading resources to give you more information about the concepts that were covered.

- [How to Start a Speech - Conor Neill](#)
- [How to captivate an audience in less than 30 seconds](#)
- [8 Ways to Get a Connection with your Audience](#)
- [Humour In Presentations: DO's and DON'Ts](#)

Action planning



3
2
1

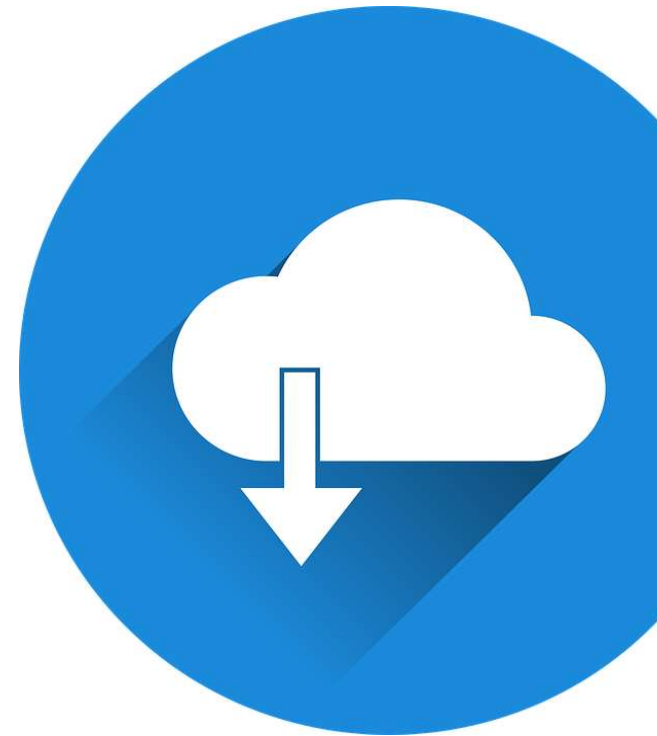
Reflect and share:

- ❖ **Three new things you have learnt** engaging a presentation audience
- ❖ **Two things you plan to change or improve**
- ❖ **One thing you are going to keep doing**

Materials

Make sure you have

- downloaded the materials shared by the teacher
- saved the Zoom Chat



After-class speaking session

You can talk about any topic that interests you!

Use these questions as a guide, if needed.

- Are you or any of your colleagues funny?
- What things do you do if a presentation is boring?
- Did you enjoy the TED talks in the lesson?
- What do you think about jokes about serious subjects?
- Can too much humour detract from the effectiveness of a presentation, and if so, how can presenters strike the right balance between humour and substance?

Dos

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect
- ✓ Keep your camera on to participate
- ✓ Let others share ideas
- ✓ Listen to everyone
- ✓ Click 'Leave' if you can't stay back

Don'ts

- ✗ Don't take pictures or record
- ✗ Don't share personal information
- ✗ Don't let your children be onscreen

For help, contact:

support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org

At



What do you think?

Do you like our new Professional Skills themes?

What did you think of the online activities?

What further information do you need?

For more information, write to

support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org



Teacher's Notes

This slide deck was adapted by Dalrene Rodrigues

Notes

Share your thoughts about the lesson with the next teacher