



Giving a Speech

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

collapse	To fall down.
[verb]	<i>Ex: The building collapsed during a storm.</i>

audience	The group of people who have gathered to watch or listen to something (e.g. a play, concert, speech).
[noun]	<i>Ex: The audience is enjoying the show.</i>

reaction	What you do, say or think as a result of something that has happened.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Her reaction to the news was quite negative.</i>



shake off	To get rid of something; to overcome.
[phrasal verb]	<i>Ex: It didn't take long for the young singer to shake off his nerves.</i>

self-esteem	A feeling of satisfaction with your own character and abilities.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Experts say that cyber bullying can lead to depression and low self-esteem.</i>

skyrocket	To abruptly increase.
[verb]	<i>Ex: Income inequality in the state has skyrocketed.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Bob: Hey Zoe, your speech was fantastic! The audience loved you!

Zoe: I was too stressed to even notice the crowd's reaction. I felt so anxious I thought I was going to collapse.

Bob: Well you can shake it off now, because you did wonderfully!

Zoe: Come on, I wasn't that good...

Bob: Don't have such low self-esteem! You really approached the topic in an honest and reasonable way.

Zoe: Do you think my speech will make much of a difference?



Bob: I don't think that numbers will skyrocket or anything like that. But it'll have an impact.

Zoe: Thanks. I really tried my best out there. I hope I didn't come out as silly.

Bob: Not at all. You came across as thoughtful and persuasive. Everyone in the audience appreciated it.

Zoe: Falling membership is a big problem for the film society, I think they understood that well.

Bob: Yeah, I think they did. We all need to support the film industry more.

Zoe: Thanks again for your kind words, Bob. You're an awesome friend to have!



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

reaction
self-esteem
skyrocketed
shake off
collapse
audience

1. I hope I can _____ this cold before the weekend.
2. Housing prices in this area have _____ since last year.
3. She has low _____ and it prevents her from pursuing her goals.
4. The stock market crash caused the economy to _____.
5. Frankly, his _____ to the news was not what I expected.
6. I feel nervous when I perform in front of a large _____.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You are about to deliver a speech, the topic is “pollution”. Talk to your friend Jake and think of things to say. The teacher can be Jake.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Have you ever given a speech or a presentation? If so, what was it like?
2. How do you feel when giving a speech or a presentation?
3. Do you like being at the center of attention? Why? Why not?
4. Do you think self-esteem is important? Explain your answer.
5. What topic would you feel most comfortable speaking about in front of an audience? Why?