



# **Social Skills**

## **Speaking to Different Communicative Partners**

Available in the format below:



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## **Speaking to Different Communicative Partners**

Adjusting to your communicative partner is an important skill with which individuals on the autism spectrum often struggle. Keeping your listeners in mind (listener presupposition) in terms of what information they need or don't need, and how your words give them a specific impression of you, is essential to successful communication. These worksheets work directly on improving listener presupposition skills. Students write down hypothetical verbal answers to various questions, without knowing to whom they are speaking, (I fold under the bottom of the page so students don't see Step B yet). They then go back and choose which parts of their answers they would keep or omit, given the identity of their listeners, including a new friend, a job interviewer, a grandparent, etc. Choices made can then be discussed and modified. Three separate worksheets ensure improvement of your students' perspective taking and listener presupposition skills.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking to Different Communicative Partners — 1

**Step A:** Write out answers to the following requests for information:

1. Tell me a little about yourself.

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2. Tell me about your school.

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3. What do you want to do for your future career and why?

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**Step B:** Now go back and **highlight** all the information you would want to give to a job interviewer and underline all the information you would want to give to a new friend. (Note: you may overlap highlights and underlines.)

**Step C:** Discuss choices, including why you would give some info to a new friend that you wouldn't give to a job interviewer, and vice versa.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking to Different Communicative Partners — 2

**Step A:** Write out answers to the following requests for information:

1. What is your greatest strength?

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2. What is your greatest weakness?

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3. What is the toughest problem you've had to face and how did you overcome it?

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**Step B:** Now go back and **highlight** all the information you would want to give to a job interviewer and underline all the information you would want to give to your mom/dad/sibling/grandparent (choose one).

(Note: you may overlap highlights and underlines.)

**Step C:** Discuss why you made the choices you made.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking to Different Communicative Partners — 3

We always need to modify what we say depending on to whom we are speaking. We have to think about the needs of that person and how he or she should be treated, and we also need to think about what kind of impression we want to make on that person, i.e., how we want them to view us.

**Step A:** Write out answers to the following questions. Keep in mind to whom you are speaking and what kind of impression you want them to have of you.

**1. A new friend** asks you to tell a little about yourself.

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**2. Your grandparent** asks you to tell about school.

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**3. A job interviewer** asks what you want to do for your future career and why.

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**4. A new coworker** asks what you think is your greatest strength.

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**5. A tutor/teacher/therapist** (choose one) asks what's your greatest weakness.

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**6. Your best friend** asks what is the toughest problem you've ever had to face and how did you handle it.

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**Step B:** Discuss why you decided to include the information that you did.

**Step C:** Discuss what kind of impression you wanted to make, and also how you thought about the needs of each of your listeners.

