



THE INDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, KOCHI

GRADE- A LEVEL
SUBJECT- ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Features of unscripted speech

1. Phatic communion-This is the polite ice breakers that we use before we start a conversation.

These may include a statement about the weather, health or a general query or something more informal.

Eg- Nice weather we're having, how do you do ?, what's up?

Usually both the partners say the same thing and a serious reply is not usually expected

2. Adjacency pairs-These are the rather standard interactions between people. They are often in the format of question and answer.

Eg- goodbye, see you soon/
yes you too, take care.

3. Voiced pauses- These are the ums, ers and you knows used in the conversation when you have a difficulty in expressing what you want to say. They are otherwise called the gap fillers or the non-fluency features. It gives us time to think and/or to announce we are going to say something when the sound is extended (e.g. mmm) So there is a voiced pause. There is a lot of non-fluency in unscripted discourse. There can be voiced or unvoiced [silence] in unscripted speech.

4. False starts are also part of non-fluency features. This happens when a speaker realizes that he/she has made a mistake and tries to repair it by using **meta language** - language which talks about language, for example I mean to say, I should have mentioned.

eg- All of you should bring 100 rupees tomorrow. I mean, all those who want to go for the picnic. Mostly the sentence is reformulated for greater clarity.

5. Repetition in conversation is common for many reasons. We may deliberately repeat for emphasis or unintentionally to gain thinking time in order to continue the conversation.

6. Turn-taking is how most conversations are managed but this does not happen always, sometimes participants cut in before their turn. They interrupt someone's conversation.

7. Overlaps and interruptions are also linked to lack of fluency. How do you know when the other person has finished speaking? When you both start speaking at once, who carries on? Interruptions can sometimes border on rudeness depending on the context. When might this be so? It is mostly considered rude when there is an argument or a verbal fight.

8. Hedges/vague language- eg-kind of, you know what I mean, actually, basically etc. These are some strategies that we use to soften the force of what is said. They are really useful when we want to negotiate a point of view. These are often used in conjunction with modality (see below).

9. Modality is a conversational strategy which allows us to introduce different options and compromises for negotiation between participants. Some of the most common examples are perhaps, probably, normally, slightly, maybe. We can also reflect this hesitancy in the verb structure by the use of modal - or 'helper' - verbs, for example may, might, could, should.

eg- You **may probably** use a range of colours in your diagram.

Maybe you **should** settle the issue before the election.

10. Ellipsis is the omission or slurring (eliding) of syllables, which is also associated with informal English, for example gonna, don't, wanna.

11. Transactional language is discourse to get things done and with a specific purpose. Much of our speech, other than chatting, is transactional, for example Put the rubbish out, I'd like a Thai curry please, You need to be eighteen to see this film.

Questions

Please do the activity [4.5] on page 157