

# Session 2:

## Presenting Your Research

### Creating Rapport:

- Attention grabbers
- Audience contact
- Intonation & word stress
- Pacing
- Presentations and feedback



# Audience contact: creating rapport -1

## Which of these ways of creating rapport come naturally to you?

- ❖ Using personal pronouns (“you”, “we”, “us”, “our”)
- ❖ Referring to common knowledge (“As you may all well know, ...; As I’m sure you’re all aware of ...)
- ❖ Using words and phrases to be less formal /more friendly: “Well; you know; actually; as a matter of fact; ok, so ...”)
- ❖ Using an attention grabber: amazing fact, staggering statistic, problem ...

# Audience contact: creating rapport -2

**How about these ones? Do they come naturally to you?**

- ❖ Posing (rhetorical) questions to the audience
- ❖ Making eye contact
- ❖ Paying attention to voice patterns
- ❖ Cracking a joke
- ❖ Paying attention to body language / posture
- ❖ Smiling 😊

# What do you think of this opener?

Matthew Walker – ‘Why We Sleep’ – Google Talks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXfIBZXAucQ>



# Presentations: Attention Grabbers

- ❖ Startling statistics or facts
  - ❖ Storytelling / Personal Connection
  - ❖ Rhetorical questions
  - ❖ Humor
  - ❖ Relevant quote
  - ❖ Visualization
  - ❖ Current events
- 
- ❖ [Why Lifestyle is the BEST Medicine | Meagan L. Grega | TEDxLehighRiver](#) (amazing fact/rhetorical questions)
  - ❖ [My philosophy for a happy life | Sam Berns | TEDxMidAtlantic](#) (humour)
  - ❖ [Examples of Attention Getters – YouTube](#) – examples of various attention grabbers

# Attention Grabbers

**Which attention grabber(s) do you find the most appealing as an audience member?**

a quote      a statistic      a little known/striking fact

a question      a story      a challenged opinion

a definition      an announcement      a riddle or puzzle

an explanation of why your topic is worth their attention

# Activity: Attention Grabbers

**In groups of 3-4, practice some of these attention grabbers  
& discuss their effectiveness**

a quote      a statistic      a little known/striking fact

a question      a story      a challenged opinion

a definition      an announcement      a riddle or puzzle

an explanation of why your topic is worth their attention

# Stress placement and intonation

## Rising or falling intonation?

1. My research group works with magnetic colloids, particles that contain tiny magnets.
2. We can programme them to repel each other or to stick together in a predefined way to form larger structures.
3. And who knows?
4. Maybe in the future, we can build materials that can flow like water and can be hard as steel.



# Word stress and meaning

Is there a difference in meaning?

- ❖ My research group works with **magnetic colloids**.
- ❖ **My** research group works with magnetic colloids.
- ❖ The building blocks of our material are **tiny** particles.
- ❖ The building blocks of **our material** are tiny particles.
- ❖ The **building blocks** of our material are tiny particles.

# Changing meaning through word stress

**Let's practice some more!**

Go to session 2 in ELO, open:

- **Exercise:** Changing meaning through word stress

# Voice and volume

- ❖ Raise the volume of your voice to make a point
- ❖ Lower your volume to add suspense
- ❖ Remember not to lose volume at the end of sentences
- ❖ Vary your volume to avoid monotonous speech



# Use your musicality

Pitch in English is like a sing-song: it goes up higher and descends lower than in many other languages.

Changes in pitch help your listeners interpret the meaning of your words and understand the emotion or attitude behind it.

❖ Try to imitate the **music** of English

❖ Can practise later at:  
<http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/voice-strength-training/>



# Pacing - three facts

Anxiety will tend to rush us

A presentation is already typically faster than conversational English\*

Average of Conversational English = 140 wpm

Average of Popular Ted Talks = 173 wpm

A speed that feels uncomfortably slow is likely the correct speed

[\\*Average Speaking Rate and Words per Minute \(virtualspeech.com\)](https://www.virtualspeech.com/)

# Avoid filler words

## – How do we avoid filler words?

um

like

you know

whatever

whatnot

# Pausing: silence can be golden



**Take time to pause a bit when you want ...**

- listeners to have time to absorb an important point and think about it
- listeners to consider and answer a (rhetorical) question in their heads.
- to give the audience a chance to predict what you will say/do next
- to change the direction of your pitch or need to collect your thoughts or breathing

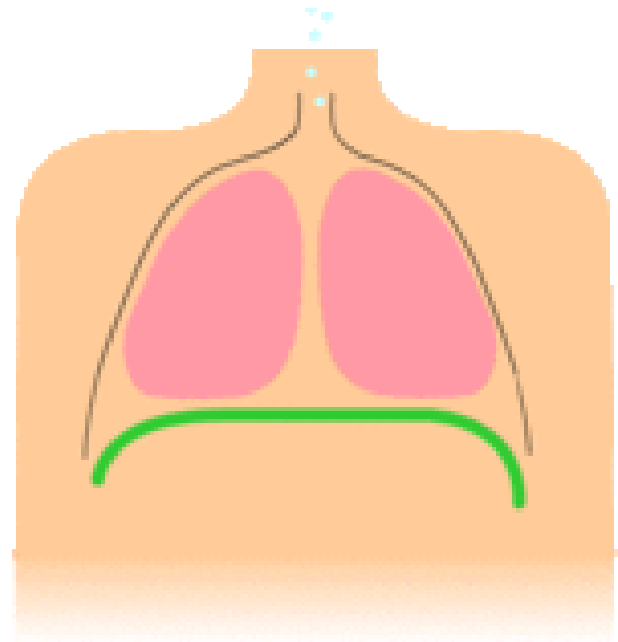
# Diaphragmatic Breathing

## Breathing

For lower, richer tones

Draw air with your  
diaphragm

From the diaphragm release  
the breath





# Practice: stress, intonation & pacing – 1

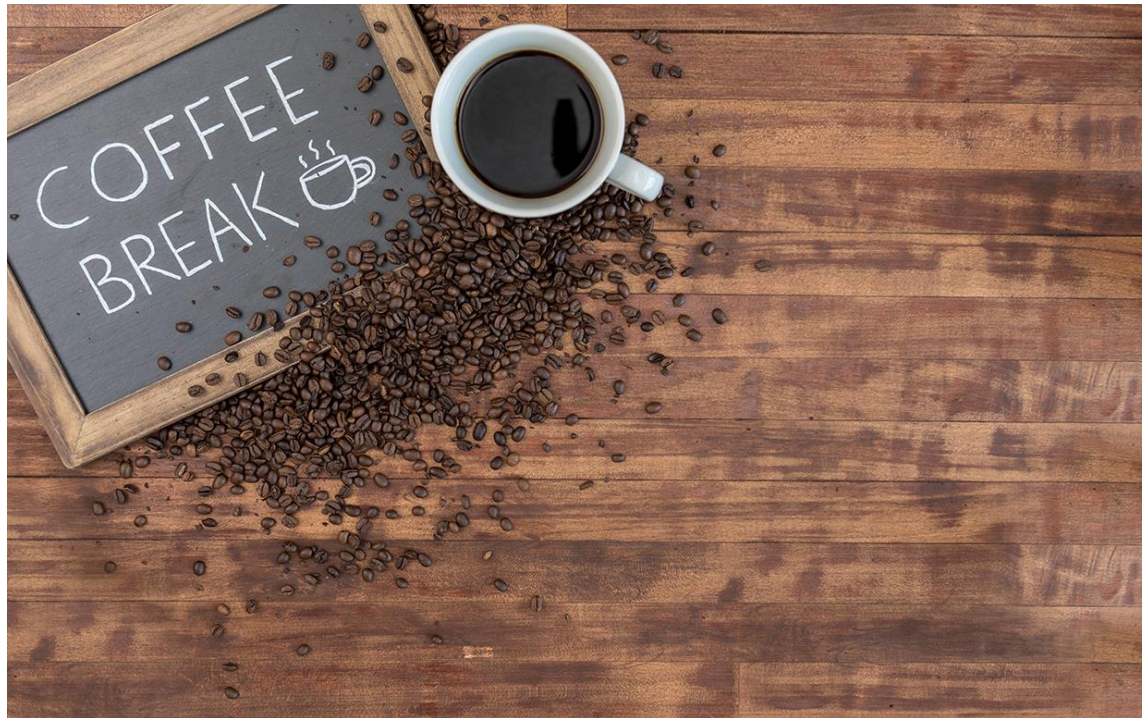
**With some poetry – let's practice:**

- stress
- intonation
- volume
- musicality
- pacing



**Go to Session 2 in ELO - Practice: Stress, intonation and pacing**

# Let's take a break!



# Practice: stress, intonation & pacing – 2

With a partner, read out loud something **from your research** and practice with your voice:



- stress
- intonation
- volume
- musicality
- pacing

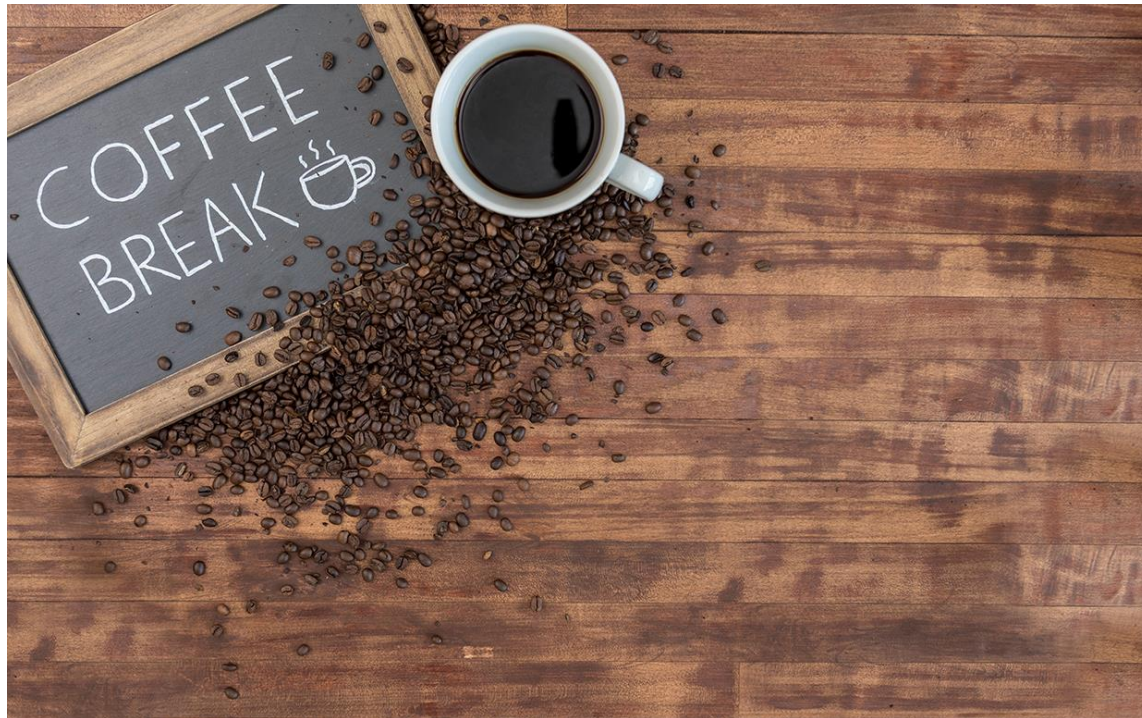
# Presentations

- 10 minutes total for presentation
- 2 to 5 minutes for questions
- 15 minutes for feedback
- Use the peer feedback form

TIP

Film your presentation  
& record feedback

# Let's take a break!



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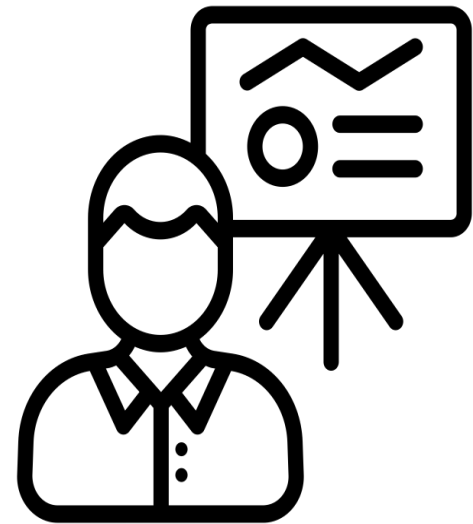
TIP

Film your presentation  
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# Next week ...

We will discuss  
'making slides and  
selecting visuals'

Bring on laptop  
previous presentation  
/slides which present  
results



Created by Atif Arshad  
from Noun Project



# Poster Presentations – session #6

- materials in session #6 tab
- ✓ Most useful: ‘Scientific Posters – more tips + illustrations’
- Use template [landscape or portrait]
- add major points
- limit word count to +/- 250 words



# Do we have some extra time?

## **We could practice:**

Exercises under 'Practice: Stress, intonation & Pacing'

- Exercise: Tongue twisters and practice for articulatory precision and perfect delivery
- Exercise: Voicing and stress placement difficult words

# Self-study and Poster Presentations

- Review PPTs, documents and websites on ELO
- Review recommended chapter(s) in course book *Presenting in English*
- Reflect on your presentation; use the feedback you received

## **Poster Presentations [for session 6]**

- Review materials in session 6: poster presentations, especially 'Scientific Posters – more tips + illustrations'
- Consider what major points to add and limit your word count to +/- 250 words
- Choose a template provided [landscape or portrait]