

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Soliloquy*/self-talk

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Objective : ***Soliloquy is a well-known literary/dramatic technique.***
To enable learners to articulate their inner thoughts and feelings, especially those that were suppressed due to politeness, respect, fear and so on.

Participation : Individual
Identifying the situations wherein learners had hidden thoughts, perceptions, observations, standpoints, reflections, feelings, emotions, and so on and expressing them to themselves as often as possible.

Duration : About 5 minutes

Procedure :

1. Teacher shows a few clippings of soliloquies from Shakespeare's plays and leads a discussion on the contexts in which the characters indulge in soliloquies and highlights their significance.
2. Learners are asked to identify some contexts wherein they have had unspoken thoughts/ hidden feelings and acted differently, may be because of the respect they have towards others. (**Example:** Several students confess that they were forced into the engineering stream by their parents although they had their hearts elsewhere. They are pursuing their education in engineering because they did not want to disobey their parents.)
3. In pairs, learners are asked to share their authentic feelings/opinions and what they feel about being able to express themselves and about those involved in that experience, necessitating the soliloquy.
4. Those who have had some intense experiences and are willing to share them with the entire class are asked to volunteer.

Learning outcomes :

- Learners realize the need to work around their unarticulated ideas and feelings to understand themselves better.
- Learners understand that thinking about those experiences and attempting to express them enables them to become more expressive.

Further Activities :

Learners should consciously focus on contrary feelings/thoughts whenever they experience such feelings/thoughts and attempt to articulate them to themselves.

* In a soliloquy, a speaker expresses his/her inner thoughts aloud to himself/herself. Examples of soliloquy from Shakespeare's plays:

"To be, or not to be: that is the question . . ." [Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1, Lines 58-90]

"If 'twere done when 'tis done". [Macbeth, Act I, Scene 7, Lines 1-28]