

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

TOUR GUIDE*

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- Objective** : To familiarize learners with all the details (major/minor) of their place of study (university/college/school) and present them interestingly to visitors by infusing anecdotes, jokes and stories.
- Participation** : In groups of 3 each. (One group as tour guides and the other as visitors to the campus)
- Preparation** : Learners have to collect different bits and pieces of data (by reading and interviewing others) about their place of study and practice to present them and answer visitors' questions in a skilful way to leave a positive impression on them.
- Duration** : 15 minutes

Procedure:

- Teacher assigns the task in advance to half the class to gather data concerning their campus from all available sources and organize them to present in an interesting and coherent manner. (The suggested template includes aspects such as the year of establishment, founders, process of evolution, strength of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, facilities available, landmarks, achievers and so on)
- Flipped model: Learners to work independently or in groups as an out of class activity.
- In class, students who worked on the task are divided into groups of three each and a similar number of groups of those who have not worked together are formed. (Outsiders could be invited as the second group to lend authenticity and to make it a stimulating activity).
- The groups are paired drawing one from each side. The first group which carried out the task is instructed to conduct a walking tour for the second group.
- The groups could launch the tour from different places in the campus and members of the first group are asked to present the details in an interesting and appealing manner by bringing in plenty of information, stories and anecdotes about their place as they walk along.
- The second group is encouraged to raise clarificatory questions to the tour guides, thereby making it interactive and enriching to both the groups. At the end of the tour the second group is to offer feedback to their counterparts regarding their communicative competence.
- The first group which has done well (tour group) is asked to repeat the activity in class and every one joins in giving them feedback.

Learning points:

1. Learners realize that they need to possess an in depth knowledge of their place of study whenever they happen to talk about it to others as against the superficial knowledge many seem to have.
2. Learners understand that besides the historical details they need to constantly update themselves about the new developments in their place.

Further activity:

Learners have to create opportunities to talk to others about all those places that matter to them such as their home, neighbourhood, restaurant, malls and place of worship they frequent and so on.

*Tour Guide: Several Engineering and Arts and Science colleges conduct walking tours to freshers on the first day, which are usually carried out by the seniors.
The demand for professional tour guides is on the rise as the tourism industry attempts to promote our country as an international tourist destination.

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