

Steps for the preparation of an oral performance in English

Main steps for basic level

1. **Create a Realistic Scenario: Imagine a real-life situation where you'd need to communicate with someone else. Think about the questions you'd ask to get the information you need.** This step is crucial because speaking relies on the different situations we encounter in life and the communication needs they create. For example, imagine being in a bar, a club, or talking to a coworker, etc.
2. **Write Down Key Questions: Jot down the main questions you'd ask in that situation.** For example, "Do you live near here?", "Where are you from?", "Do you like living in your city?", "What do you do?", "What kind of music do you like?".
3. **Imagine Yourself Answering: Pretend that these questions are being asked to you and answer them.** Remember, **the goal is to communicate**, so don't worry about making mistakes. It's normal to speak slowly at first—you'll get faster with practice. Focus on getting your ideas across, not on perfect grammar.
4. **Note down the necessary words:** Take note of the words that you consider necessary to ask your questions, answer your suggested questions, support your views, etc. Once you have a list of **ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY**, look it up on a dictionary and practise with them in English so that you can incorporate them into your conversation.
5. **NEVER WRITE DOWN FULL SENTENCES:** If you need to write something, you can make a scheme with words, verbs, arrows, etc. This way you can simply check the keywords in order to remember what you want to say. If you write full sentences, it's for sure that will end up reading and this is not what you are trying to do.
6. **Elaborate on Your Answers: Give detailed answers.** Instead of just providing a simple "yes" or "no" or the specific detail, you will turn the conversation into an interrogation. So explain your reasons. For example, if someone asks, "Do you live near here?", you could say, "Yes, I live very close. I really like it because it's in the city center and everything is within walking distance. I love being able to walk everywhere."
7. **Record Yourself: Record your answers and, if possible, practice speaking with someone. If you can't find a partner, practice in front of a mirror.** Looking at yourself in a mirror will make you feel minimally the nerves of talking to somebody. Recording yourself helps you identify pronunciation issues and areas where you need more practice.

Intermediate Level

8. **Provide More Details: Start adding more specific details and explanations to your answers, such as descriptions, explanations, detailed reasons, etc.** Once you feel confident in your ability to communicate with a greater or lesser degree of precision (using a variety of vocabulary, expanding on information, and using basic grammar structures with few errors – present, past, comparatives, etc.), you should strive to use more specific or objective adjectives instead of subjective ones that don't convey much information. For example, words like 'wonderful', 'great', 'beautiful', 'difficult', 'pretty', 'ugly', and 'complicated' provide little detail. Instead, you can use adjectives like 'clear', 'sunny', 'transparent', 'crystalline', 'thought-provoking', 'challenging', 'stimulating', 'intellectual', 'wrinkled', 'disfigured', 'pointed', 'harmonious', and 'aesthetic'. Use a wider variety of vocabulary and more complex grammar structures. For example, instead of saying "nice," try using words like "stunning," "breathtaking," or "intriguing."
9. **Use New Vocabulary: Incorporate new words from your vocabulary lists into your conversations.** This will help you expand your vocabulary and gain confidence in your speaking abilities. For example, instead of saying, "I'm from Gijón, in the North of Spain. It's a small coastal city but I love it because of its natural environment. Everything is green there, food is fresh and varied and the deep blue sea is part of our lives. We enjoy every type of weather, either mild or changing, because it makes us feel alive, in contact with nature and a part of it."

Advanced Level

10. **Use of more specific and descriptive vocabulary. Greater precision through detail and concreteness.** When one has little specialization or a low level of proficiency, there is a tendency to use 'catch-all' words that often contribute little or nothing to communication. Nouns like 'people', 'thing', and 'place', and verbs like 'do', 'get', 'go', 'see', and 'give' are often overused. When we talk about 'people', we might be referring to 'tourists', 'citizens', 'neighbours', 'natives', 'housewives', 'politicians', etc.' When we talk about 'do', we might be referring to 'carry out', 'realize', 'paint', 'cook', 'elaborate', 'produce', 'create', or 'manufacture'. When we talk about 'get', we can achieve greater precision by using words like 'achieve' or 'reach'.