Lesson 2 – Introduction to presentations

Adapted from *Oxford EAP, A course in English for Academic Purposes, OUP 2012*

Watch the introduction to a short presentation that is part of a series of student presentations on aspects of technology. Note down the information for points 1-7.

1. The semester theme: _____

2. The speaker' s research interest: _____

3. The presentation topic: _____

4. Why speaker selected this topic: _____

5. Two questions to be addressed in the presentation: _____

    a) _____

    b) _____

6. Limitations of the presentation: _____

7. How the presentation is structured: _____

Watch again and note down the language the speaker uses to introduce the information in 1.

8. *As you know,* our theme for the first part of this semester is technology…

9. So, …………………………………………………………….is modern speech technology

10. And speech recognition systems are …………………………………………………..

11. I've been interested in speech recognition systems for some time, and

    ………………………………………………………………………………………………

12. These are the two …………………………………………………………………………

13. Now, as we only have about five minutes …………………………………………………..

14. So, firstly…………………………………………………………………………………..

Language focus – study these examples and supply appropriate headings for the groups of phrases:
*Questions   Title/subject   Length   Purpose/objective   Greeting, name, position
Reference to the audience   Outline/Main parts*

Decide which phrases are rather formal and which are more informal.

1) Good morning. My name is (…). I am the Finance manager.

   Ladies and gentlemen. It is an honour to have the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience.
   Good morning. Let me start by saying just a few words about my own background. I started out in ….

2) I would like to talk to you today about …
   I am going to present … explain our position on … inform you about…
   The subject/focus/topic of my talk/presentation/paper/speech …

3) We are here today to decide/agree/learn about…
   The purpose of this talk is to update you on… put you in the picture… give you the background to …
   This talk is designed to act as a springboard for discussion/start the ball rolling

4) I shall only take (…) minutes of your time.
   I plan to be brief.
   This should only last (…) minutes.

5) I have divided my presentation into four parts/sections
   The subject can be looked at under the following headings: …
   We can break this area down into the following fields: firstly, secondly/then/next…
   Thirdly/and then we come to… finally/lastly/last of all…..

6) I would be glad to answer any questions at the end of my talk.
   If you have any questions, please feel free to interrupt.
   Please interrupt me if there is something which needs clarifying. Otherwise, there will be time for discussion at the end.

7) I can see many of you are …
   I know you have travelled a long way…
   You all look as though you have heard this before.

Introduction – exercises

1. Complete this presentation introduction with words from the list.

talk about   look at   points of view

questions   brief   finally

hear   act as   go along

Good afternoon and thank you for making the effort to be here with us today. My name's Rachel Rawlins and I'm responsible for public affairs. What I'd like to do today is a………. Our recent corporate campaign. This b……………….. talk will hopefully c…………………. A springboard for discussion. I'm going to d………………….. the corporate campaign from three e…………………….. : firstly, the customers; secondly, the financial institutions; and f……………., the shareholders. If you have any g……………., just interrupt me as I h…………….. Your point of view may well be different, and we'd like to i………….from you.

2. Introductions can become repetitive. It's important to have a choice of words and expressions at your fingertips.

Use one of the following expressions to replace each of the expressions in italics in this introduction. Check your answers in pairs.

don't hesitate   a chance   I take care

I'm delighted   sections   go through

In more depth   my purpose is   divide

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. *It's a pleasure* to be with you today. My name's Gordon Matthews and *I'm in charge* of corporate finance at our headquarters here in Brussels. *We are here today* to *review* some key figures to outline financial strategy over the next five years. So what I intend to do is to *break down* this presentation into three *parts:* first, the financial review; second, the options facing us; and, finally, the strategy I propose. If you have any questions, please *feel free* to interrupt me, but I should say there'll be *an opportunity* to discuss issues *at greater length* after my talk.

3. HW – prepare a short introduction to a presentation including all important parts and using phrases we have discussed today. You can choose from these topics:
   a) Studies at the Faculty of Science
   b) Keeping a pet
   c) Public transport
   d) Whatever you want to talk about

Adapted from Effective presentations, OUP 2000

Introduction to Algebraic Topology

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrXPFIJ3XCo

Pre-listening

1) What kind of a shape is a torus?

2) What do you know about Algebraic Topology?

3) What is a manifold?

Listening.

**a) Concentrate on the introduction and note down the phrases the speaker uses.**

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b) Now fill in the missing parts of sentences.

1) Algebraic Topology developed from the ………century work in …………….theory.

2) Henri Poincaré established ………………………for the subject.

3) Recently Poincaré Conjecture has been solved by ………………………………………….

4) Algebraic Topology is concerned with …………………….. and how to …………….

5) It is connected to ………………………………………………………………………….

6) The new topics of a course will be ………………………………………………………

7) The most fundamental 3-dimensional manifold is …………………………………

8) The shape professor drew is a …………………………………………………………..

9) Group theory is …………………………………………………………………………

10) If the students are not familiar with the group theory, they should ……………………

Have a look at the picture - what is it?
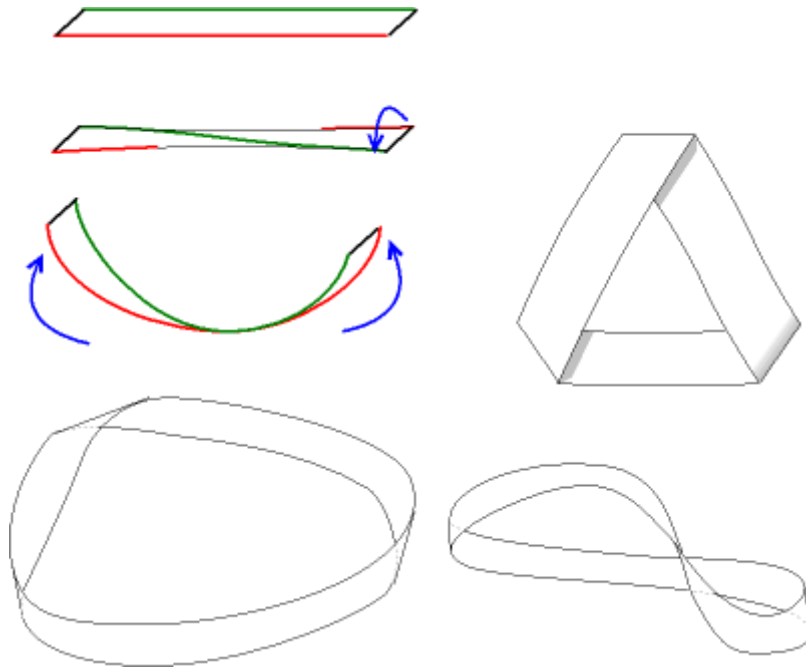
1. Giving instructions. In pairs, try to write down the simple instructions for the construction of this object, following the steps depicted in the picture.

Expressions you can use: to twist, to join the ends, to stick one end to the other, to bend.

a)................................

b)................................

c)................................

2. What happens if you twist the strip twice?
3. What are the characteristic properties of this object?

4. Exam practice. Read the text and find synonyms. Then decide whether the statements are true or false.
object   characteristics   found out   watching   trial   uninterrupted   creates

The Möbius strip (adapted from Nucleus, English for Mathematics)

The Möbius strip is a construction which has some very strange properties. It is named after Möbius (1790 – 1868) who first wrote about it in 1865 in a book called *Uber die Bestimmung des Inhaltes eines Polyeders.*

The properties of the Möbius strip can most easily be discovered by observation. To do this, take a long strip of paper. Now twist it once. Finally stick one end of the paper to the other.

Now you can try a few experiments with this Möbius strip. If you try to colour only one surface of the strip, you will find that it is impossible. Drawing a continuous line along the middle of the strip produces a line on both sides of the paper. By cutting along this line, we would expect to divide the strip into halves, but in fact we form a longer, thinner strip which is still one piece.

a) The Möbius strip has only one surface.

b) The Möbius strip has two edges.

c) The Möbius strip is a three-dimensional figure.

d) Observing the Möbius strip is the easiest way to discover its properties.

e) Sticking together the ends of a twisted rectangle produces the Möbius strip.

HW
Try to find out:
What does the word topology mean?...
What is a topological space? ………………………………………….
What are the most important subfields in topology? ……………..
Which types of deformations can be performed without changing the spatial properties of objects? ……………………………………………………………