

Hello everyone!

## The topic for this week's class, Friday August 27, is: **“Impromptu Speaking”**

What is “Impromptu Speaking”?

The time will come when someone asks you to “say few words. . .”  
You are asked to talk, “on the spot” without any preparation.  
Usually in front of other people. It could be during a class, a work meeting,  
a job interview or during social gatherings such as a birthday celebration.  
It could happen anywhere at anytime!



**im·promp·tu** (/im'präm(p),t(y)oo/) done without being planned, organized, or rehearsed.  
"the politician gave an impromptu press conference"

## Today we will practice impromptu speaking in our small groups (one minute)

- Each person will be given a topic.
- We will use breakout groups of three people.
- One person will set a timer for one minute.
- One person will go first and start talking, and continue talking about their topic until the timer goes off.
- Once the speaker stops, the other people in the group may ask questions for two more minutes.
- This process is repeated until all people in the group have had a turn to be the speaker.



# Tips and Techniques for Impromptu Speaking

- Give your opinion – do you agree or disagree, like or dislike, why?
- Talk about your experience with the topic.
- Give some examples.
- Pros and Cons.
- Recommendations.
- Keep it simple!



# Tips and Techniques for Impromptu Speaking

- Tell a story

Use the Five “W” questions

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why
- (and also How)

*I’m going to share a story of **when** I was . . .*

*My mother, **who** was a teacher, always used to say. . .*

*I don’t understand **why**. . .*



This is a great way to practice “thinking in English,” which is a skill that will help you achieve greater fluency.

## BONUS TIP

Buy yourself time to think by repeating the question and using “filler words”

*“My question is . . . .”*

*..“um,” “uh,” “well,” “so,” “you know,” “er,” hmm, ok and “like.”*



Here is an example of an impromptu response to the topic *“Transportation in America.”*

**Set timer 1:00 minute. START TALKING:**

**Transportation in America. Hmm, let me see. Um, what can I say about that. Well, here are some thoughts.**

One thing I really **dislike** about transportation in America is that there are so few public transportation options.

In America, most places are a far distance apart. Getting around you must have a car. Even for simple things like going to a grocery store or a pharmacy. To drive a car you are required to have a driver’s license. Getting a driver’s license is difficult and buying a car is very expensive. In most places walking is not a practical option because it will take maybe over one hour to walk to the nearest store. On the **positive** side, many Americans love the driving culture as they like the “freedom” to go wherever they want whenever they want. But I would prefer a transportation system that was more like those in Japan and Europe. **I visited London recently** and used the subway, or what they call “The Underground” to go all over the city.

I enjoyed relaxing in the trains and not having to worry about driving directions or finding parking. I would rather hop on a train or bus, and walk a few blocks to my destination from the train. Sometimes I wish... – **1:00 minute timer goes off.**

**STOP TALKING.**

**STOP TALKING.**

Techniques used:

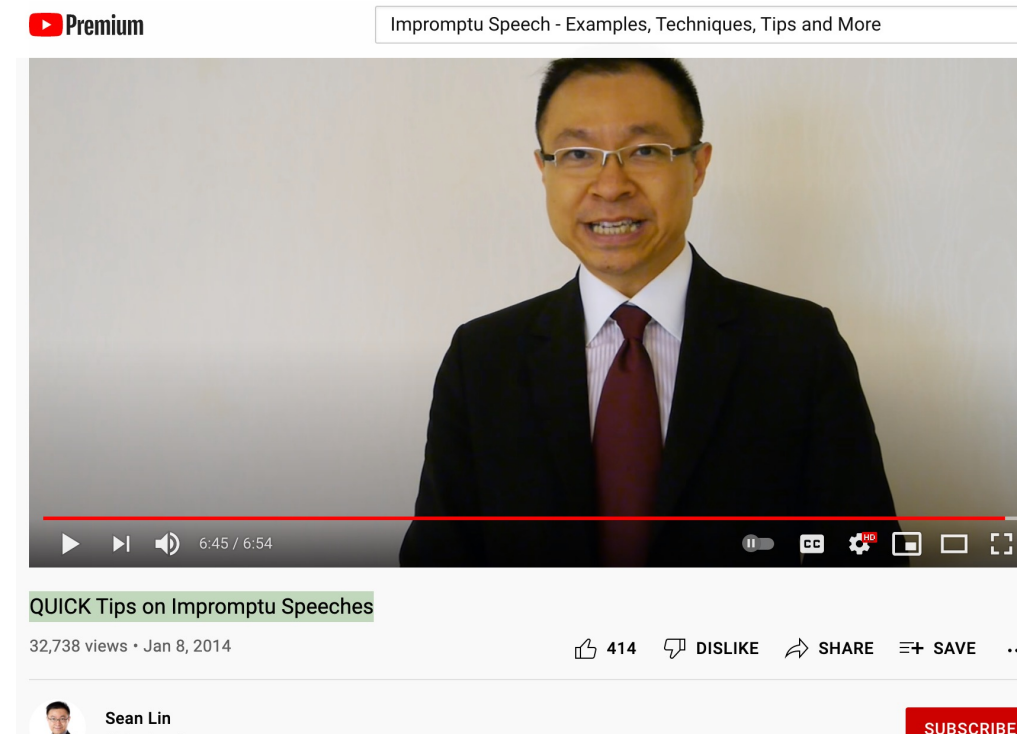
- **Repeat the question or prompt**, and use **“filler” words** to buy myself some time to think for a few seconds
- Talk about the **Pros and Cons**
- **Tell a Story**

Here are two YouTube video that may be helpful:

How to handle impromptu speeches HKUST Toastmasters Club  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1BrrBe0NnQ>



QUICK Tips on Impromptu Speeches  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkL7LJTalpM>



## Vocabulary for Impromptu Speaking Lesson

**Impromptu** - Im·promp·tu (/im'präm(p),t(y)oo/) done without being planned, organized, or rehearsed.  
"the politician gave an impromptu press conference"

**Impromptu Speaking** – being asked to speak, in front of others with no preparation.

**"On the Spot"** – doing something with no preparation, practice or rehearsal.

**Filler Words** – filler words are short, meaningless words (or sounds) we use to fill the little pauses that occur while we decide what we're going to say next. .."um," "uh," "well," "so," "you know," "er," and "like."

**Buy some time** - to do something to extend the period of time before something happens, usually to better prepare or to finish a task.

**Butterflies** – feeling anxiety and nervousness in your body before a performance.

**Palpitations** – before a speech, a noticeably rapid, strong, or irregular heartbeat due to nervousness.

**Nerves** - before a speech, feeling high anxiety, butterflies, palpitations.

**Anxiety** - a feeling of fear, dread, and uneasiness.