

# Academic Speaking Practice

This resource outlines strategies to develop your speaking fluency for the courses you are taking.

## Why academic speaking practice?

Ever had the feeling that you know the answer to the instructor’s question yet couldn’t raise your hand to answer because you don’t feel confident enough or feel the words escaped your tongue? Academic speaking practice is here to help you develop academic speaking fluency.

## Why should I do extra work to prepare beforehand?

Because by having something prepared beforehand, you are using your time with a tutor much more efficiently instead of stumbling through the session trying to figure out what you need to work on.

## How should I practice?

Generally, there are two options for how tutors can help students develop their speaking fluency.

	Option 1: Verbal vocabulary review	Option 2: Discussion and mini presentations
Goals	Develop verbal fluency for the terminology (vocabulary words and expressions) that you need for the classes you are taking this term. For instance, every week, you’re most likely to have to read a chapter from your textbook. In them, there will be new terminology or vocabulary for the new concepts to learn for that chapter. Those new words will be the focus of this option.	Verbally review what you’ve learned during your classes. For instance, every week, you’ll most likely learn something new and or important in your classes. Verbally reviewing concepts and ideas from your respective classes will be the focus of this option.
Work to do on your own	Before every session, prepare a list of new words/terminology (10-15 depending on the length of the session) from the current week, make sure you’ve learned them, and be ready to explain them to a tutor.	Before every session, bring a current presentation you’re working on for class or prepare a mini presentation (usually 5-10 minutes). The topic can be anything that is related to the course you’re taking this term. The presentation doesn’t have to be formal; it can be structured like a discussion or whichever format you feel comfortable with.
What you will do with the tutor	During the session, you’ll explain the words you’ve learned to the tutor. Think of it as you’re teaching vocabulary to your friends/classmates. The tutor will be listening to your explanation and taking notes as needed. When you have finished the list of new words, the tutor will give you feedback on pronunciation, word choice, grammar, and anything else the tutor noticed during your explanation.	During the session, you will deliver the presentation. The tutor will be listening to your explanation and taking notes as needed. If appropriate, the tutor will ask questions to help you explain concepts more completely. When you have finished explaining the concepts, the tutor will give you feedback on pronunciation, word choice, grammar, and anything else the tutor noticed during your explanation.