

Unit 6 A prepared speech

This unit starts with lists of proverbs, idioms and expressions that you may find useful when you write essays or speeches.

A **proverb** is a short saying that expresses a truth. It may be a catchy way to start a speech. An **idiom** is a fixed expression that is figuratively used in sentences. **Prepositional phrases** are used with specific prepositions – you simply have to learn them!

Proverb	Meaning
Winning is not everything.	Some things are more important than winning.
Winners never quit and quitters never win.	If you give up, you cannot win.
The sky is the limit.	The possibilities are endless.
A sound mind in a healthy body	A healthy mind and a healthy body go hand in hand.
Slow and steady wins the race.	If you want to succeed, do not rush it.

Idiom	Meaning
To swim with the tide	To do whatever everyone else is doing
To square the circle	To try something impossible
To show someone the ropes	To teach someone specific skills
To steal the show	To do so well that you get most of the attention
To stand head and shoulders above someone or something	To be the very best

Idiomatic use of prepositions in prepositional phrases

To complain of (a sore foot)	To spend time on (practising)
To be dismissed from (the team)	To be happy with (the results)
To do something on purpose	To separate ... from ...
To play at (the stadium / the games)	To beam with (pride)
To insist on (a replay)	To congratulate ... on (her title)
(The victory) came at a price	To suffer from (an injury)
To be surprised by (the win)	To be jealous of (someone)
To show off (your skills)	To be good at (tennis)

Activity 6.1 Working with proverbs, idioms and expressions

Learn the proverbs and expressions on this page so that you can use them in your writing and speeches.



Activity 6.2 Preparing a speech

120 minutes

1. Choose one of the following topics:

- My favourite sport
- My sports hero
- Winning is not everything
- The sky is the limit.

2. Plan your speech.

- Do some research: look up the topic in library books, magazines and newspapers, or on websites.
- Organise the facts you have found.
- Plan your speech by using a mind map.
- Write a first draft and edit it.
- Remember to include a strong beginning that will catch the attention of your audience.
- End off with a strong closure that your audience will remember.
- The body of the speech should consist of two or three paragraphs that flow in a logical **sequence**.
- The length of the speech should be about 100 to 110 words.
- Write a final draft of your speech.
- Make cue cards. Each cue card should contain only a few facts.

3. Practise your speech in front of a mirror.

- Use your cue cards.
- Practise speaking at a comfortable tempo.
- Practise pronouncing your words clearly.
- Memorise your speech – it will help you when you are stressed.

**Keywords****sequence:** order**emphasise:** draw attention to**Formal Assessment Task****Oral***Presenting a prepared speech*

2–3 minutes

1. Present your speech to the class.

- Stand up straight and look at your audience.
- Use your cue cards if you need to, but do not read the speech.
- Speak clearly and don't speak in a sing-song voice.
- **Emphasise** key ideas and words with your voice and a gesture or two.

2. Your teacher will evaluate your speech on the following:

- planning (4)
- quality of research (4)
- introduction; logical linking of paragraphs/ideas; closure (4)
- proper use of English (4)
- presentation: eye-contact and confident body language; voice projection and pronunciation; comfortable tempo (4)

Total: 20