

Volte Face

In Volte Face, you're given a topic and have to start speaking on it right away. You have to speak FOR the topic for 30 seconds. Then a buzzer sounds. Then you speak AGAINST the topic for 30 seconds. Then a buzzer sounds again. You again speak FOR the topic for 30 seconds. And then you again speak AGAINST the topic for 30 seconds!

Not only does Volte Face give amazing public speaking practice, it actually makes anyone who's listening to you laugh and laugh! You see, you are saying something for 30 seconds and then saying EXACTLY the opposite thing for 30 seconds.

What arrangements do you need for Volte Face? Someone timing and sounding a buzzer after 30 seconds or that someone can clap if there isn't a buzzer available.

Transition exercise

All you need for this exercise is a stack of index cards, or even some loose scraps of paper. On each card or scrap, write down a word, phrase, or name of a person or place. Vary the words over a number of different categories, and be sure to use some words that are humorous and relevant to the students. Types of words you can use include:

- Places (New York, Paris)
- Foods (oranges, pomegranates, the cafeteria's soggy fries)
- Celebrities that can be the source of humour (Flavor Flav, Britney Spears)
- Politicians (Steven Harper, Hillary Clinton)
- TV shows watched by students, popular and/or terrible (*The Office*, *Jersey Shore*)
- People around the school (a math teacher, the principal)

Each student should go to the front of the room and draw a card randomly, and then immediately start talking about the subject on the card-- pomegranates, let's say. After awhile, pick another card for the student and say, "Okay, Joe, your next topic is Flavor Flav."

The student then has to find a way to transition from pomegranates to Flavor Flav. After a moment's thought, she might say, "Pomegranates are only good when they're ripe, and that takes time. And one person who knows all about what time it is -- is Flavor Flav."

Some students are more creative than others, so if someone gets stuck, ask the audience to help. It's also a good idea to let students pass on a topic. If someone doesn't know what a pomegranate is, just offer another topic.

You can also do this as a chain. After one student is done talking about pomegranates and Flavor Flav, give someone else another random topic, and let him continue the story.

Record Yourself

Undoubtedly, recording yourself is the best way to judge your public speaking skills. It gives you an opportunity to judge yourself the best way possible. You might have prepared an impressive speech and worked upon your vocal skills as well, but chances are that at the time of speaking you can fail to create the kind of impression that you thought of. Recording your performance at practice session is the best way to grow as an orator or public speaker.

The record would act like a mirror reflecting your highs and lows. It would showcase all the negativities wherein you need to work about and the positive that need some refinement.

Public speaking practice activities

Questions like, do you connect to the audience, do you have a tendency to read, never looking up from your notes to acknowledge listeners or is your cadence too rapid, would all be answered immediately, after watching the tape. This would allow you to focus your attention on certain important aspects and evaluate yourself correctly.

The Magic of Tongue Twisters

Most orators or spokesperson indulge in practicing tongue twisters. These not only give you an excellent diction, but also help you attain proper tempo of speech. Tongue twisters also make you aware of what you are saying and how you are saying it. Some of the tongue twisters you can practice are listed below.

- ❖ Si six scies six cyprés, six cent scies scient six-cent cyprés
- ❖ La chasseur sachant chaser sans son chien, est un bon chasseur
- ❖ Dans ta tent eta tant t'attend
- ❖ Le ver vert v avers la verre vert
- ❖ Cinq chiens chassent six chats
- ❖ Je dis que tu l'as did Did ice que j'ai dit jeudi
- ❖ Elle est partie avec tonton, ton Taine et ton thon
- ❖ Trios petites truites crues
- ❖ Pruneau cuit, pruneau cru
- ❖ Ce ver vert severe sait verser ses verres verts
- ❖ Les chaussettes de l'Archiduchess sont-elles sèches, archi-sèches?
- ❖ Santé n'est pas sans t, mais maladie est sans t.
- ❖ Mon père est maire, mom frère est masseur
- ❖ Ces cerises sont si sûres qu'on ne sait pas si c'en sont
- ❖ Gros gras grand grain d'orge, tout gros-gras-grand-grain-d'orgerisé, quand te d é-gros-gras-grand-grain-d'orgeriseras-tu? Je me dé-gros-gras-grand-grain-d'orgeriserai quand tous les gros gras grand grain d'orge se seront dé-gros-gras-grand-grain-d'orgerisés.
- ❖ Un dragon gradé degrade un gradé dragon.
- ❖ Je suis ce que je sais et si je suis ce que je suis, qu'est-ce que je suis?
- ❖ Au peid de cet arbre vos laities naissent-elles?
- ❖ Si vos laities naissent, vos navets naissent!
- ❖ Le blé s'moud-il? L'habit s'coud-il? Oui l'blé s'moud, l'habit s'cloud.
- ❖ Pauvre petit pêcheur, prend patience pour pouvoir prendre plusieurs petits poisons.
- ❖ Dans le gendarmerie, quand un gendarme rit, tous les gendarmes rient dans le gendarmerie.
- ❖ Pourquoi les allies ne se désolidariseraient-ils pas?
- ❖ Rat vit riz, rat mit à ras, rat mit patte à riz, riz cuit patte à rat.
- ❖ Cette taxe fixe excessive est fixée exprès à AIX par fisc.
- ❖ Il était une fois, un home de foi qui vendait du foie dans la ville de foix. Il dit ma foi, c'est la dernière fois que je vends du foie dans la ville de foix.
- ❖ Le general Joffrin nous dit: a Toul, ai perdu mon dentier.
- ❖ Citation de Romain Bouteille dans "des boulons dans mon yaourt" au café de la Gare.
- ❖ Trios petites truites crues
- ❖ Tu t'entêtes à tout tenter, tu t'uses et tut e tues à tant t'entêter.