Innovation English Integrated Course Book 3

**Unit Four**

**Public Speaking**

**Objectives**

**Students will be able to:**

1. Obtain the general idea (some hints for acquiring confidence before an audience.) and the structure.
2. Acquire the important words and key grammar points in the article.
3. Acquire the key language points and grammatical structures in the text;

4. Participate in a series of reading, listening, speaking and writing activities related to the theme of the unit.

**Suggested Teaching Steps**

Lead-in

Text A

* Detailed Study
* Structure

After-reading

Additional Materials

**Lead-in**

**Directions: *Please watch the video clip and answer the questions.***

1. In what ways is public speaking important?

2. According to the speaker, how can public speaking benefit the listeners?

***Tips:***

1. Career development, develop leadership; personal development, gain personal values, build confidence; find your own voice; benefit others.

2. By public speaking, you share your opinions with others, leading them in a new direction.

**Text A Acquiring Confidence Before an Audience**

Students of public speaking continually ask, “How can I overcome self-consciousness and the fear that paralyzes me before an audience?”

To get rid of your self-consciousness and fear, you must face an audience as frequently as you can. A book may give you excellent suggestions on how best to conduct yourself in the water, but no one ever learns to swim from them. To plunge is the only way. Practice in speaking before an audience will tend to remove all fear of audiences, just as practice in swimming will lead to confidence and facility in the water. You must learn to speak by speaking. What follows are some hints for you to acquire confidence before an audience.

**Be Absorbed by Your Subject**

If you feel absorbed by your subject you will be able to think of little else. Concentration is a process of distraction from less important matters. It is too late to think about the cut of your coat once you are upon the platform, so centre your interest on what you are about to say — fill your mind with your speech-material and,

like the infilling water in the glass, it will drive out your unsubstantial fears. To hold any other view is to regard yourself as an exhibit instead of as a messenger with a message worth delivering. If the theatre caught fire you could rush to the stage and shout directions to the audience without any self-consciousness, for the importance of what you were saying would drive all fear thoughts out of your mind.

**Have Something to Say**

The trouble with many speakers is that they go before an audience with their minds a blank. It is no wonder that nature, abhorring a vacuum, fills them with the nearest thing handy, which generally happens to be, “I wonder if I am doing this right. How does my hair look? I know I shall fail.” Their prophetic souls are sure to be right.

It is not enough to be absorbed by your subject — to acquire self-confidence you must have something in which to be confident. If you go before an audience without any preparation, or previous knowledge of your subject, you ought to be self-conscious — you ought to be ashamed to steal the time of your audience. Prepare yourself. Know what you are going to talk about, and, in general, how you are going to say it. Have the first few sentences worked out completely so that you may not be troubled in the beginning to find words. Know your subject better than your hearers know it, and you have nothing to fear.

**After Preparing for Success, Expect It**

Let your bearing be modestly confident, but most of all be modestly confident within. Over-confidence is bad, but to tolerate premonitions of failure is worse, for a bold man may win attention by his very bearing, while a rabbit hearted coward invites disaster. Humility is not the personal discount that we must offer in the presence of others.

Washington Irving once introduced Charles Dickens at a dinner given in the latter’s honour. In the middle of his speech Irving hesitated, became embarrassed, and sat down awkwardly. Turning to a friend beside him he remarked, “There, I told you I would fail, and I did.” If you believe you will fail, there is no hope for you. You will. Rid yourself of this I-am-a-poor-worm-in-the-dust idea. You have infinite capabilities. All things are ready if the mind be so. The eagle looks the cloudless sun in the face.

**Assume Mastery over Your Audience**

In public speech, as in electricity, there is a positive and a negative force. Either you or your audience is going to possess the positive factor. If you assume it, you can almost invariably make it yours. If you assume the negative you are sure to be negative. Assuming a virtue or a vice vitalizes it. Summon all your power of self direction, and remember that though your audience is infinitely more important than you, the truth is more important than both of you, because it is eternal. If your mind falters in its leadership, the sword will drop from your hands. Your assumption of being able to instruct or lead or inspire a multitude or even a small group of people may appal you as being colossal impudence — as indeed it may be.

Make yourself calm and confident. In facing your audience, pause a moment and look them over — a hundred chances to one they want you to succeed, for what man is so foolish as to spend his time, perhaps his money, in the hope that you will waste his investment by talking dully?

**Concluding Hints**

Do not make haste to begin — haste shows lack of control.

Do not apologize. It ought not to be necessary; and if it is, it will not help. Go straight ahead.

Take a deep breath, relax, and begin in a quiet conversational tone as though you were speaking to one large friend. To stand before an audience and make them think your thoughts after you is one of the greatest pleasures you can ever know. Instead of fearing it, you ought to be as anxious as the fox hounds straining at their leashes, or the race horses tugging at their reins.

So cast out fear, for fear is cowardly — when it is not mastered. The bravest know fear, but they do not yield to it. Face your audience pluckily — if your knees quake, make them stop. In your audience lies some victory for you and the cause you represent. Go win it.

**Detailed Study**

**1) (Para. 1) Students of public speaking continually ask, “How can I overcome self-consciousness and the fear that paralyzes me before an audience?”:** People who study public speaking often ask, “How can I deal with the shyness and fear that makes me unable to speak before an audience?”

【译文】在公众场合演讲的学生常问：“我如何才能克服害羞和恐惧心理，不至在听众面前失语呢？”

**self-consciousness: *n.*** being worried and embarrassed about what you look like or what other people think of you

局促不安，害羞

*e.g.* It was wholly due to her natural manner and total lack of self-consciousness.

Self-consciousness occurs when consciousness develops on a high level.

**paralyze: *v****.（1）* to make sb. unable to feel or move all or part of their body 使瘫痪，使麻痹

*e.g.* The accident left him paralyzed from the waist down.

The stroke left him paralyzed on one side of his body.

(2) to make sth. unable to operate normally 使陷入瘫痪，使无力

*e.g.* The airport is still paralyzed by the strike.

The electricity failure paralyzed the water supply.

**paralysis: *n*.** inability to move or function 麻痹，瘫痪

*e.g.* The strike caused total paralysis in the city.

The paralysis affects his right leg and he can only walk with difficulty.

**2) (Para. 2) Practice in speaking before an audience will tend to remove all fear of audiences, just as practice in swimming will lead to confidence and *facility* in the water:** In the same way that practice in swimming

will make you confident and skilled in the water, practice in speaking before an audience will enable you to get

rid of all your fear of audiences.

【译文】正如练习游泳可以使你在水中获得自信、敏捷，在听众面前练习演讲会消除你对听众的恐惧。

Note that **“as”** in this sentence is used as a conjunction, and it means in the way that someone says or that

something happens, or in the condition something is in.

*e.g.* The money was repaid, as promised.

We’d better leave things as they are until the police arrive.

Roberta was late as usual (= in the way that she usually was).

**facility: *n.*** (1) skilful performance or ability without difficulty 灵巧，熟练

*e.g.* She has an amazing facility for languages.

(2) (*pl.*) rooms, equipment, or services that are provided for a particular purpose 设施（备），工具

*e.g.* The hotel has its own pool and leisure facilities.

**3) (Para. 3) Concentration is a process of *distraction* from less important matters:** If you concentrate properly, it will keep your mind from straying to other matters.

【译文】聚精会神使你不去关注那些次要的事。

**distraction: *n.*** (1) sth. that stops you paying attention to what you are doing 分散注意力的事；使人分心的事

*e.g.* I study in the library as there are too many distractions at home.

He found the noise of the photographers a distraction.

(2) a thing or event that amuses or entertains 娱乐，消遣

*e.g.* TV can be a welcome distraction after a hard day’s work.

**distract: *v.*** (**~ sb./sth. from sth.**) to take sb’s attention away from sth. by making them look at or listen to sth. else 使分心，使分散注意力

*e.g.* The film managed to distract me from these problems for a while.

**4) (Para. 4) It is *no wonder* that nature, abhorring a vacuum, fills them with the nearest thing handy, which generally happens to be, “I wonder if I am doing this right. How does my hair look? I know I shall fail”:**

It is not surprising that if the speaker’s mind is blank, nature, disliking emptiness, will fill it with the thoughts

like, “I wonder if I am doing this correctly. How does my hair look? I know I shall fail.”

【译文】人天生讨厌大脑空空，他们的脑子里难免会蹦出一些关乎身边细节的类似念头：“我在想这样做正确吗。我的头发看起来怎么样？我知道我会失败的。”

**no wonder:** it is hardly surprising 难怪，不足为奇

*e.g.* No wonder you’ve got a headache, considering the amount you drank last night.

He had made a thorough investigation. No wonder he knew so much about it.

**5) (Para. 6) Over-confidence is bad, but to tolerate *premonitions* of failure is worse, for a *bold* man may win attention by his very *bearing*, while a rabbit-hearted coward invites disaster:** Too much confidence is bad, but putting up with the feeling that failure must come is even worse: that is because a brave and confident

man may attract people’s attention by the way he moves, stands, and behaves; whereas, a cowardly man seems

almost to be seeking failure.

【译文】过度自信固然不好，但总是预感失败更糟糕，因为一个勇敢的人可能以他的翩翩风度赢得注意，

胆小如鼠的人却只能以失败告终。

**premonition: *n.*** a strange feeling that sth., especially sth. bad, is going to happen （尤指不祥的）预感

*e.g.* As we approached the house, I had a premonition that something terrible had happened.

When Anne didn’t arrive, Paul had a premonition that she was in danger.

**bold: *adj.*** (1) brave; not afraid of taking risks and making difficult decisions 大胆的

*e.g.* The wine made him bold enough to approach her and introduce himself.

(2) written or drawn in a very clear way 明显的，轮廓突出的

*e.g.* She paints with bold strokes of the brush.

(3) printed in letters that are darker and thicker than ordinary printed letters（印刷字或字符）粗体的，黑体的

*e.g.* Highlight the important words in bold type.

**bearing: *n.*** (1) the way in which you move, stand, or behave, especially when this shows your character 姿态，举止

*e.g.* She kept her dignified bearing throughout the trial.

Her whole bearing was alert.

(2) (**~ on sth.**) relevance to sth. 关系（联）

*e.g.* What he said had not much bearing on the subject under discussion.

**6) (Para. 6) Humility is not the personal discount that we must offer *in the presence of others*:** To be humble does not mean we should belittle ourselves in front of other people.

【译文】谦逊，并不等于我们得在他人面前自我贬低。

**in the presence of sb.:** 在……面前；有……在场

*e.g.* He had to humble himself in the presence of the prince. The children showed a little restraint

in the presence of their new teacher.

**7) (Para. 7) The eagle *looks* the cloudless sun *in the face*.**

【译文】鹰总是直面无云遮掩的太阳。

**look… in the face:** to look directly at sb. without fear or shame 直视，勇敢地面对

*e.g.* I don’t know how you can look your sister in the face after what you’ve done.

I was so ashamed that I could not look him in the face.

**8) (Para. 8) If you *assume* it, you can almost *invariably* make it yours:** If you believe something will happen, it almost always does.

【译文】若你设想拥有正极，那正极几乎总会为你所有。

**assume: *vt.*** (1) to take or begin to have power or responsibility, etc., or to start in a particular position or job 承担（责任）； 取得（权力）

*e.g.* I made a mistake and I will assume responsibility for it.

(2) to think that sth. is true, although you do not have definite proof 假设（定），设想

*e.g.* The makers of digital products regularly assume that people are technology literate.

**assumption: *n.*** (1) a thing accepted as true or as sure to happen, but not proved 假定（设），设想

*e.g.* Had the assumptions been strictly compatible, the results would have been identical.

The theory is based on a series of wrong assumptions.

(2) (**~ of sth.**) act of taking on 承担，担任

*e.g.* The new governor’s assumption of office takes place next Tuesday.

**invariably: *adv.*** always 始终如一地，一贯地

*e.g.* A new house of any size was now almost invariably symmetrical.

Whenever the stately national anthem is performed, I am invariably emotionally roused.

**9) (Para. 8) Assuming a *virtue* or a vice vitalizes it:** When you think something is good, it will be good; when

you think something is bad, it will be bad.

【译文】心向善则善，心向恶则恶。

**virtue: *n.*** (1) a particular good quality in sb.’s character 美德；优秀品质

*e.g.* He is a man of great virtue.

He now realizes that virtue is its own reward.

(2) attractive or useful quality, advantage 优点，长处

*e.g.* The virtues of the Internet cannot be ignored.

The car has its drawbacks and its virtues.

**10) (Para. 8) *Summon* all your power of self-direction, and remember that though your audience is *infinitely* more important than you, the truth is more important than both of you, because it is *eternal*:** Muster your powers of self control and responsibility and keep in mind that even though your audience is much more

important than you, the truth is more important than both of you, because it lasts for ever.

【译文】尽力把握演讲的方向，并记住：听众虽比你重要得多，但真理比你和听众更重要，因为真理

是永恒的。

**summon: *v****.* **(**1) to make an effort to produce a particular quality in yourself, especially when you find it difficult 鼓起， 振作

*e.g.* She was trying to summon up the courage to leave him.

You must summon up all your courage to meet the danger.

(2) to order sb. to come to a place 召集

*e.g.* They had to summon a second conference and change the previous decision.

**infinitely: *adv.*** very much 远远……，……得多

*e.g.* His family is as old as the hills, and infinitely more respectable.

The gas molecules are infinitely far apart from one another.

**eternal: *adj.*** continuing for ever and having no end 永恒（久）的

*e.g.* She felt eternal gratitude to him for saving her life.

The idea that the world is eternal is now seldom advanced.

**11) (Para. 8) If your mind *falters* in its leadership, the sword will drop from your hands:** If you do not stick to the idea that you are in control, you will lose the power to inspire your audience.

【译文】一旦动摇了真理第一的原则，你的演讲就会暗淡无光。

**falter: *v.*** (1) to walk or behave in a way that shows that you are not confident 犹豫；蹒跚

*e.g.* She walked up to the platform without faltering.

Our hopes will not falter in adversity.

He never faltered in his commitment to the party.

(2) to speak in a voice that sounds weak and uncertain, and keeps stopping 嗓音颤抖；结巴地说

*e.g.* His voice faltered as he began his speech.

His voice began to falter at the mention of his sufferings in the old days.

(3) to become weaker and unable to continue in an effective way 衰弱（退）

*e.g.* The economy is showing no signs of faltering.

**12) (Para. 8) Your assumption of being able to instruct or lead or inspire a *multitude* or even a small group of people may *appal* you as being colossal impudence — as indeed it may be:** The idea that you can teach, lead, or encourage many or even a small number of people may shock you, as being great presumption — as it may actually be.

【译文】想象自己能给一大群，或哪怕是一小部分听众传授知识、开拓思路、启迪思想，都可能令你惶恐安，觉得自己太冒失，但事实上，你可能的确能做到这一点。

**multitude: *n.*** an extremely large number of things or people 大量，许多

*e.g.* These systems are capable of performing multitudes of different tasks.

A multitude of fans attended the music festival.

**appal: *vt.*** to shock sb. very much 使震惊，使惊骇

*e.g.* Rescue workers were appalled at what they saw.

The newspaper reports of starving children appalled me.

**13) (Para. 9) In facing your audience, pause a moment and look them over — a hundred chances to one they want you to succeed, for what man is so foolish as to spend his time, perhaps his money, *in the hope* that you will waste his investment by talking dully:** When facing your audience, stop for a moment and examine them quickly — the probability is 99% that the audience want you to succeed, for who is foolish enough to spend his time, and perhaps money, and want you to waste them by talking dully.

【译文】面对听众，稍作停顿，扫视听众 ——99% 的听众期待你成功，因为谁会傻到花时间，或金钱，

希望你以无聊之谈浪费掉他的投资？

**in the hope that:** 抱着……的希望

*e.g.* I called early in the hope that I could catch her before she went to work.

They mingled with the crowd in the hope that their pursuers would lose sight of them.

**14) (Para. 12) Instead of fearing it, you ought to be as anxious as the fox hounds *straining* at their leashes, or the race horses tugging at their reins:** Rather than fearing the audience, you should be as eager to give your speech as the fox hounds or the race horses are eager to accomplish their missions.

【译文】不要害怕站在听众面前，应像急于追赶猎物的猎狐狗或整装待发的赛马那样怀着热切的心情

去演讲。

**strain: *v.*** (1) (**~ at sth.**) to pull hard at sth. or push hard against sth. 用力拉，拉紧

*e.g.* The dogs were straining at the leash, eager to get to the park.

(2) to make the greatest possible effort 竭（尽）力

*e.g.* He strained his eyes to penetrate the thick cloud of dust.

She was straining to keep her head above the water.

(3) to injure a muscle or part of your body by using it too much or making it work too hard 因用力而损伤

*e.g.* I’ve strained a muscle in my leg.

You will strain your eyes by reading in such poor light.

**15) (Para. 13) In your audience lies some victory for you and the cause you represent:** To some extent,

convincing your audience will represent a success for you and your campaign or organization.

【译文】你的成功，以及你所代表的事业，都有赖你的听众。

Note that in this sentence the propositional phrase is put at the beginning, so the sentence is inverted.

*e.g.* On the ground lay some air conditioners, which were to be shipped to some other cities.

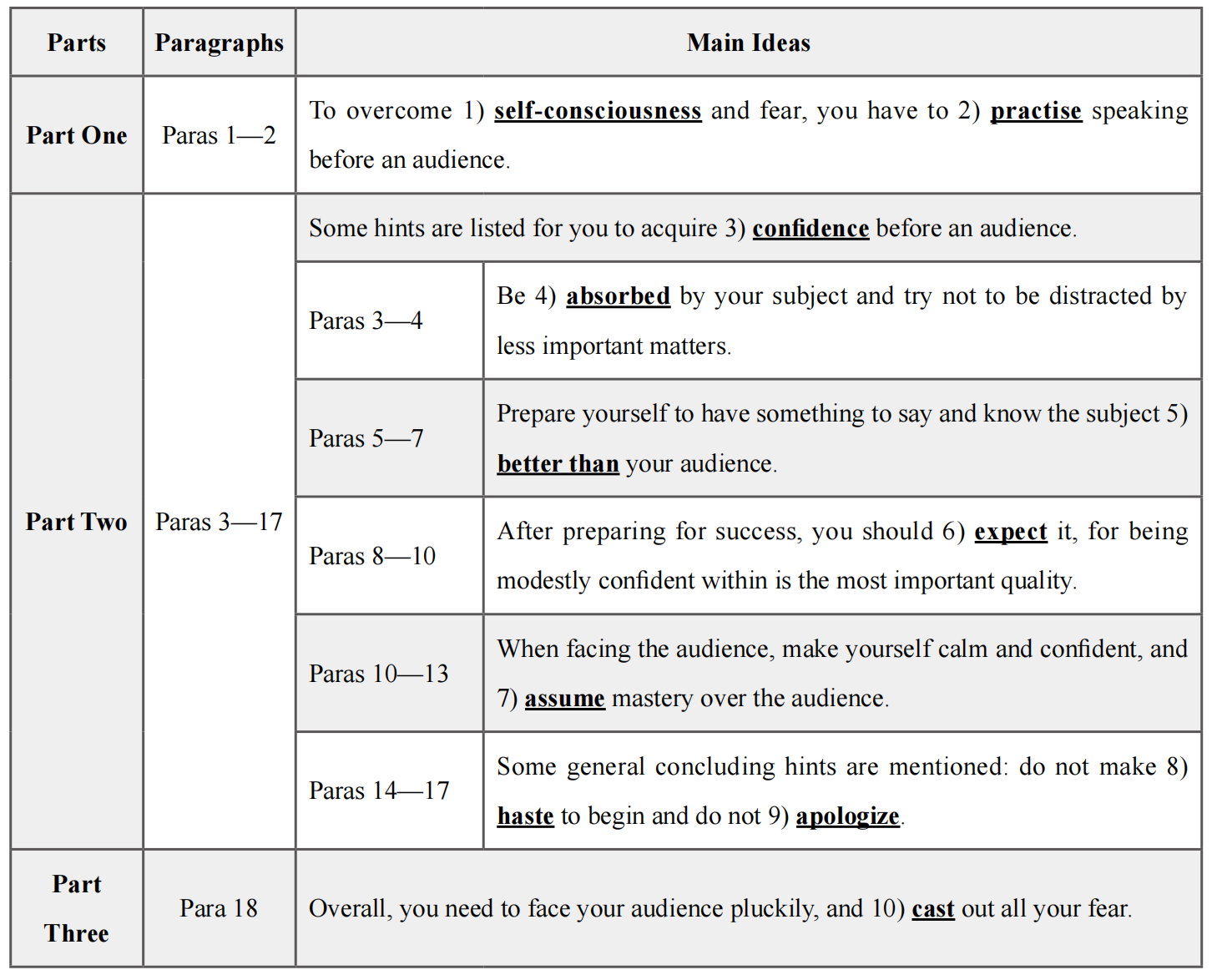
Along the dusty road came a group of tourists.

In the distance could be seen the purple mountains.

**Structure**

**Directions: The text can be divided into 3 parts. Now fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the text to**

**complete the main idea of each part.**



**After Reading**

**Directions: Choose the answer that best answers each question.**

1) According to the text, how can you be absorbed by your subject when delivering a public speech?

A) By cantering your interest on some less important matters to remove all your fear.

B) By regarding yourself as an exhibit instead of as a messenger with a message worth delivering.

C) By thinking about the cut of your coat.

**D) By filling your mind with your speech-material.**

2) As to the point “Have something to say”, which of the following is NOT true according to the text?

A) You should make preparations or have previous knowledge about what you are going to say.

B) You should not only know what you are about to say, but also know how to say it.

**C) It’s unnecessary for you to know your subject better than your audience.**

D) Keep the first few sentences in your mind so that it is easy for you to find words at the beginning of the

speech.

3) What does the example of Washington Irving imply?

A) Even a famous person should prepare and have something to say.

B) Premonitions of failure will invite disaster for you in your speech.

C) Washington Irving was poor with words.

**D) Washington Irving was a man with infinite capabilities.**

4) Which is the correct understanding of the word “sword” in Paragraph 8?

A) The mind.

**B) The words.**

C) A sharp weapon.

D) The power to inspire the audience.

5) Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the text?

**A) While delivering a speech, you should regard yourself as an exhibit.**

B) To acquire self-confidence you must have something of which you are confident.

C) You should know your subject better than your audience.

D) The truth is more important than both you and your audience.

**Key to Exercises—Vocabulary**

1.

1) assume 2) facility 3) blank 4)absorbed 5) faltering

6) strain 7) paralyzed 8) bold 9) haste 10) in the hope that

2.

1) Her research is cantered on / centers on the social effects of unemployment.

2)His right arm and right leg were completely paralyzed after he suffered a serious stroke.

3) We were appalled when we heard that the chairman had been murdered.

4)It is said that the information he provided was of great value but this is not invariably the case.

5)It took her a full month to summon up enough courage to tell her mother about this.

6) He struggled to rid himself of his fears, but it was in vain.

7)Her courage never falters even though she is living a tough life.

8)The news removed any doubts about the company’s future.

**Key to Exercises—Structure**

1.

1) Down jumped the burglar from the second floor when the policeman pointed his pistol at him.

2)There appeared a man in black in the distance.

3)On the ground lay some air conditioners, which were to be shipped to some other cities.

4)By the window sat a young lady with a magazine in her hand.

5)To the coal mine came a company of soldiers with orders from headquarters to rescue the trapped miners.

2.

1)I knew his family must be praying for him just as I was praying for Sam.

2) The earth travels around the sun just as the moon revolves around the earth.

3) Absence diminishes a little passion and increases a great one, just as the wind blows out a candle and fans a fire.

4)Woods are indispensable to birds just as fish cannot be separated from water.

5)In a contest, your opponent is afraid of you just as you are afraid of him.

**Key to Exercises—Cloze**

1)A unexpected 2) N keep 3) L fond 4) F melts5) K shock.

1. D swallow 7) J benefits 8) M led 9) H truly t10) E fear

**Key to Exercises—Translation**

好的演讲者会让他们自己独特的个性大放光彩。他们不会试图模仿其他的演讲者。然而，优秀的演讲者都是练出来的而不是天生的。没有人能不准备也不练习就自信从容地发表演讲。一本书可以给你极好的建议，教你如何在水中驾轻就熟，但没有人是在书中学会游泳的。跳进水中是唯一的办法。只有通过准备和练习，你才能克服害羞和恐惧，同时获得信心成为你自己。

**After-reading Activity 1**

**Directions: *To speak in front of an audience can often be a terrifying thought. Describe the pictures below, and answer the questions that follow.***



***Questions:***

1. Have you ever delivered any public speech? If yes, how did you feel at that moment? If not, how would you

think you would feel if you had to give a speech in front of a large audience?

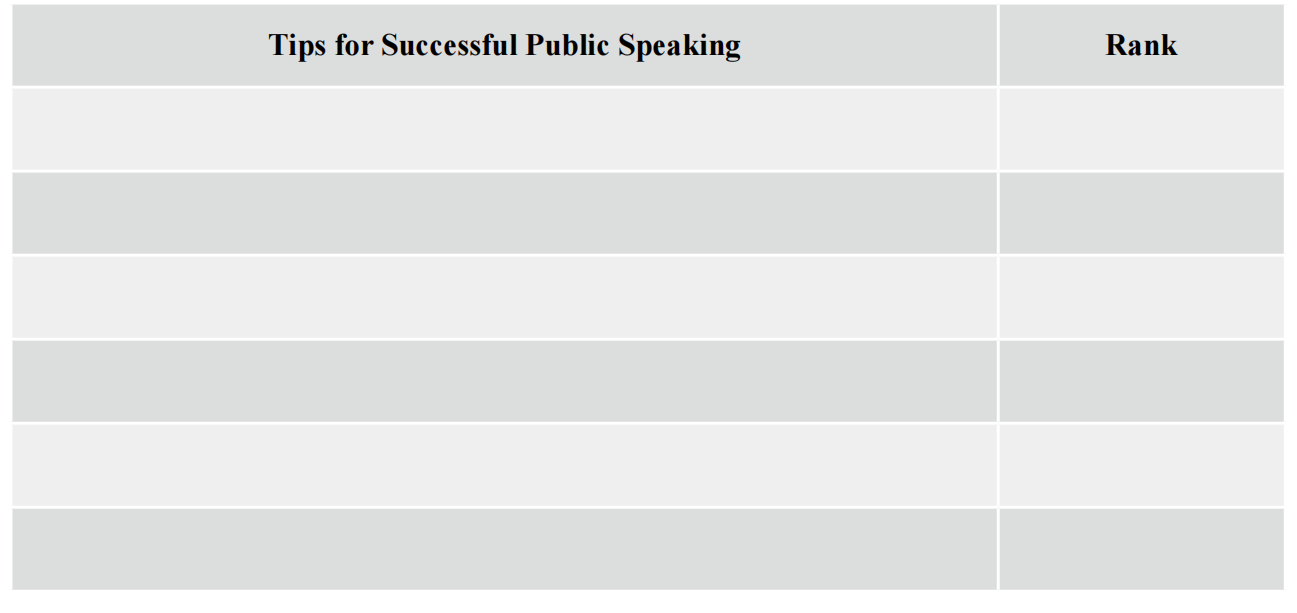
2. Why is public speaking difficult for most people? Why are people nervous when they give a public speech?

**After-reading Activity 2**

**Directions*: Listen to the passage entitled “Tips for Successful Public Speaking*” *and discuss with your***

***group members to make your own list of tips. Use the table below to note down your tips and***

***rank them according to importance.***



**Script:**

**Tips for Successful Public Speaking**

Feeling some nervousness before giving a speech is natural and healthy. It shows you care about doing well. But, too much nervousness can be detrimental. Here’s how you can control your nervousness and make effective, memorable presentations:

1. Know the room. Be familiar with the place in which you will speak. Arrive early, walk around the speaking area

and practice using the microphone and any visual aids.

2. Know the audience. Greet some of the audience as they arrive. It’s easier to speak to a group of friends than to a

group of strangers.

3. Know your material. If you’re not familiar with your material or are uncomfortable with it, your nervousness

will increase. Practice your speech and revise it if necessary.

4. Relax. Ease tension by doing exercises.

5. Concentrate on the message. Focus your attention away from your own anxieties, and outwardly toward your

message and your audience. Your nervousness will dissipate.

6. Turn nervousness into positive energy. Harness your nervous energy and transform it into vitality and enthusiasm.

7. Gain experience. Experience builds confidence, which is the key to effective speaking. A public speaking club

may provide the experience you need.

**After-reading Activity 3**

**Directions: *Eloquence is fluent, forcible, elegant or persuasive speaking in public. It is primarily the power of expressing***

***strong emotions in striking and appropriate language, thereby producing conviction or persuasion. Some say only politicians and lawyers need it, while others say it is a basic skill for everyone. What do you think? Do you need such skills? Why or why not?***

**Additional Materials**

**Activity One**

**Directions: *There are a lot of famous speeches that have changed the world. Do you know any impressive speeches? Share what you know with your classmates.***

**Activity Two**

**Directions: *It’s never easy to speak in public. Discuss with your partners to find out the barriers to a good***

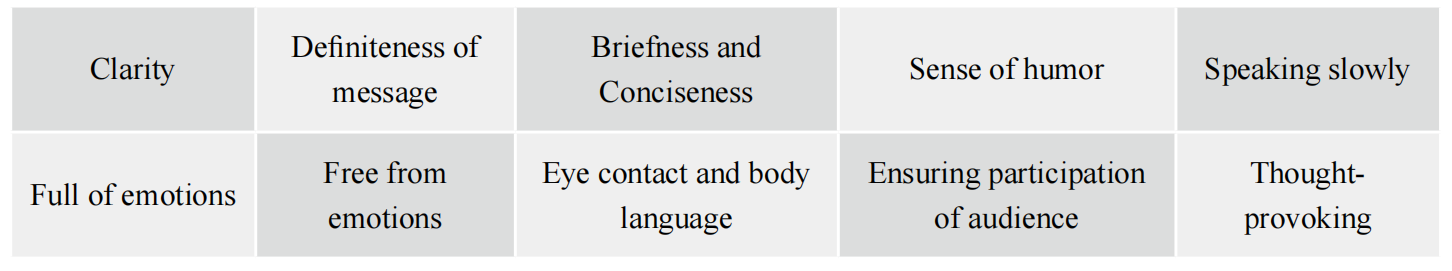
***public speaking, and explain the reasons.***

***Tips:*** Possible barriers: fears, lack of confidence, nervousness, shyness, lack of practice, language problem, etc

**Activity Three**

**Directions: *Have you ever listened to a public speech? What kind of speech would be more impressive?***

***Choose from the word bank below three most important properties that make an unforgettable speech in your eyes.***



**Background information**

**1. Dale Carnegie**

Dale Carnegie (1888-1955, originally Carnagey) was a pioneer in corporate training programs and the developer of famous courses in self-improvement, public speaking and interpersonal skills. His best known book, *How to Win Friends and*

*Influence People*, first published in 1936, has remained popular ever since. He was born Dale Breckenridge Carnagey, on November 24, 1888, in Maryville, Missouri. In 1913 Dale Carniege published his first best-selling book: *Public Speaking and Influencing Men in Business*. In 1926 he published the first collection of his writings titled *Public Speaking: A practical Course for Business Men*. The book became a best-seller, and the author became rich. However, he lost all his savings in the stock market crash of 1929. Dale Carnegie learned to accept the worst that can happen, and then proceed to improve on the worst. His own experience was the source for his bestselling books: *Public Speaking and Influencing Men in Business* and *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. Dale Carnegie died at age 66, of a Hodgkin’s lymphoma, complicated with uraemia, on November 1, 1955, in Forest Hills, New York. He was laid to rest in the Belton Cemetery, Cass County, Missouri, the USA.

**2. Washington Irving**

Washington Irving (1783-1859) was an American author, short story writer, essayist, poet, travel book writer, biographer, and columnist. Irving has been called the father of the American short story. He is best known for *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, in which the schoolmaster Ichabod Crane meets with a headless horseman, and *Rip Van Winkle*, about a man who falls asleep for 20 years.

**3. Charles Dickens**

Charles Dickens (1812-1870), an English novelist, is generally considered the greatest of the Victorian period. Dickens’s works are characterized by attacks on social evils, injustice, and hypocrisy. He had also experienced oppression in his youth, when he was forced to end his schooling in his early teens and work in a factory. Dickens’s good, bad, and comic characters, such as the cruel miser Scrooge, the aspiring novelist David Copperfield, or the trusting and innocent Mr. Pickwick, have fascinated generations of readers.