

Talk like TED/ Talks and Listening

Levels B1, B2, C1, C2

Caroline Preller

Learning goals

The aim of this course is to develop public speaking and communication skills. TED talks (Technology, Education, Design) are renowned for presenting groundbreaking ideas in a clear, engaging way. Through listening to key TED talks, students will be able to observe and define when, why and how they work, and subsequently create their own short talks.

Learning objectives

Each week, students will focus on one or two aspects of the form and content of public speaking including the importance of body language, voice work, oral ease and fluency, the art of storytelling, essential content, knowing your subject, creating novelty, style - the use of humour, appealing to the emotions, the use of visuals, knowing your audience. Using elements of the flipped classroom, they will watch specific TED talks *before* the class, to share during class. There will be a variety of practical exercises to do to apply the knowledge. As an autonomous project, students will prepare a final talk (individually or in pairs) using the skills they have been studying. Students should increase their fluency and ease, build up confidence in speaking, improve diction, intonation, delivery and pronunciation, and improve their listening skills and body language.

Course Expectations

Group exercises, individual exercises, pair-work, team-work, listening/watching/reading, analyzing, synthesizing. Writing speeches and learning (some of) them by heart to perform.

Evaluation

Evaluation - 40% is given for active participation, which includes presence, involvement, attitude and communicating in English, then 30% for homework and written work and 30% goes to progress, reaching goals, effort and the final project.