

# Speak Out

David Herz Levels B1 – C1

The best way to learn to speak is to do it. And it can take so many forms. The students can speak on assigned material (quite vast, examples from literature, sequences from plays, current affairs, ancient affairs, varied confessions, advice columns), work out a tandem dialogue with often hilarious consequences, document a real or imagined technical project, practice simply describing the things they see, attempt a poem or a song or a slam or a rap...and all of this in the comforting blaze of what English does so brilliantly: teach you how to express yourself as simply, clearly and directly as possible, and with the fewest adverbs. We will speak and correct each other's speech, make impassioned and sometimes milder pleas, bask in the wealth of the written possibilities of the English language...

## For starters

Generally, students will prepare spoken work, and be corrected as to structure and pronunciation. Since the teacher cannot pretend to radically improve the quality of their speech, he will encourage them speak until it does improve. Grades will be based on quantity and participation and if quality comes swimming in, then all the better.

## Presentation + Exercises

There is also speaking to be done in the realm of presenting cover letters, resumes and web presence in the form of a carefully tended LinkedIn page with a link to a speaker, not too much silliness on Facebook, a hypertext version of the resume meaning that the document refers to places elsewhere where the reader can click and is thus expandable at will.

Another speaking exercise is preparing a Ted Talk in which one of your fellow students is the subject of the talk.

The **autonomy project** could be based on a spoken version Raymond Queneau's

<http://x42.com/active/queneau>.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

to be done in English, collaboratively, online, get the virtual equivalent of the paper to flip lines and equal the richness of Queneau's original intention...Or a tandem piece.

Each student 'configures' a poem and reads it during the DLC performance day.

## Evaluation

There will be a fixed number of assignments, depending on the number of lessons.

Doing none, you will receive a zero...

If you do 1, you will receive 10, all the way up to 20 if you do them all.