



Oracy Activities and Games

*Supporting schools during
extended closure*

Boosting self-confidence and communication skills

Speaking confidently and persuasively with impact

Nurturing aspiration, resilience and wellbeing

Oracy Activities and Games – *for teachers still in school*

Talk The Talk is a charity that supports oracy cultures and strategies in hundreds of secondary schools across England and Wales.

At present, our team of trainers is unable to work in schools supporting students with their communication skills – but we still want to help those teachers who are supporting the children of essential workers if we can.

We have pulled together some oracy activities and games that can be used in the classroom with students of all ages. These activities and games are fun, sometimes competitive, easy to adapt and generate positive discussion about the future and of course provide rich oracy opportunities.

Please also see our alternative version of this resource designed to be sent home to students who are currently home schooling.

As we have time to fill, let's fill it with positive talk!

Talk The Talk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

Why Oracy?

Confident communication is key to succeeding in all manner of challenges that life throws at us and is an essential driving force behind social mobility and success.

If you leave school equipped with excellent communication skills then you will be better able to meet and exceed the challenges of university, the workplace and life itself. Strong oracy skills support you to become well-rounded, successful and resilient individuals.

How to use

Each of the following activities and games give you and your students an opportunity for rich discussion, practicing speaking out, putting across opinions, using persuasive language and articulating your ideas with vocal, visual and verbal skills.

Use and develop the following skills to help your communication get better each time:

VISUAL WHAT WE SEE...	VOCAL HOW WE SAY IT...	VERBAL WHAT WE SAY...
Eye Contact Facial Expression Posture Hand Gestures Movement Body Language Appearance	Clarity Pitch Pace Pause Projection Emphasis Tone	Stories Facts & Statistics Quotations Jokes Rhetoric Imagery Opinion

Each activity is self contained, but adapt to suit your interests – change the topics, swap roles and be creative. ***Most of all have fun and try and get a little better each time!***

Talk The Talk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

1. Fillers Beware

This competitive exercise is designed to promote fluent talk, and avoid the use of filler phrases such as 'like', 'you know what I mean', 'err...' and 'umm...'

Ask a volunteer to talk about anything for one minute – it could be subject specific, an anecdote or perhaps what they most look forward to being able to do again when life returns to normal...

Students are given one point for every second they speak for, but will lose a point for every 'filler' phrase they use. A student who speaks for sixty seconds without any filler phrases will score 60 points. A student who runs out of material at forty five seconds, and uses five 'filler' phrases will score 40 points.

This exercise can be also employed to ascertain knowledge retention after a specific subject has been covered in the classroom.

2. The Extended Answer

This exercise helps to develop extended answers from students.

Students are not allowed to answer any questions posed with the words 'yes' or 'no'. A volunteer student is seated whilst their peers pose questions. When the student in the chair makes a mistake and uses one of these words, then another student replaces them.

This exercise can be fun – with questions relating to anything – or can be subject specific – with the teacher providing a series of questions for students to ask the volunteer.

This exercise can be employed to ascertain knowledge retention after a specific subject has been covered in the curriculum.

3. Pace Yourself

This exercise is designed to reinforce learning through revision – and to encourage students to vary pace when speaking in front of others. It requires a visual count down timer and piece of text provided by the teacher.

Students are provided with a piece of text – it can be anything at all – subject specific, revision orientated, introducing a new concept – and students selected read aloud to their peers. Their objective is to read it aloud and complete the text provided as the time hits zero – not before, and not after!

The teacher can vary the timer – having students read the same material in 15/30/45/60 seconds to encourage variance of pace and use of pause.

4. For And Against

The aim of this exercise is for students to take a position on an issue that they then back up with evidence of examples.

Ask each student, regardless of inner belief to create both a reason for and a reason against each statement.

Students should stand and sit down once they have spoken

- Schools should be totally closed during the Coronavirus pandemic
- Doctors and Nurses should receive a huge bonus when the pandemic is over
- It is OK to keep animals as pets
- School holidays should be longer
- School Uniform is essential
- Students should be able use the internet unsupervised

5. Open Discussion Questions

The questions below can be used in the classroom at any time that you want to get some discussion going. You can invite individuals to respond, or you can chair a whole class discussion on the question posed:

1. Is Coronavirus bringing society closer together, or pushing it further apart?
2. What are you missing most under the current restrictions?
3. Should key workers be paid more?
4. Are there any advantages to the current 'lockdown'?
5. What's more important, what others think of you, or what you think of yourself?
6. Who are more embarrassing, parents or siblings?
7. Is the hole part of the polo?
8. If you had to choose which would you be, a body with no mind or a mind with no body?
9. If you knew that you could not fail, what would you do?
10. What do you most look forward to when the 'lockdown' ends?

6. What I Dream Of...

The aim of this game is to share a personal dream and two progressive compromises. Each student is given time to think of the answers to the following linked statements:

I dream of....." they then reveal
I'd settle for....." And finish with
I am more likely to get...."

e.g

I dream of eating a MacDonald's...

I'd settle for a Burger King...

I am more likely to get beans on toast...

7. I Couldn't Disagree More...

This activity is all about how students interact with the other side of an opinion and disagree, positively!

Each student needs to hear the argument, have a few moment to collect their thoughts on the matter, then disagree, stating why they disagree and providing a reason why. Student should respond with the following opening sentence, 'I couldn't disagree more...'

Statements to be disagreed with can include:

- We should all wash our hands regularly
- We should all shower everyday
- I think the world is a better place when everyone wears clothes
- I think we should all try to eat well and be healthy
- I think we should look after the environment
- I think we should take care of older people
- I think school is very important

8. I Remember When...

This is an opportunity to remember all of the things that form part of our daily lives and to formulate a list of these things to reflect upon and discuss.

Quite simply, all students are asked to supply an 'I remember when...' answer for the teacher to collate and lead a discussion on.

This could be followed up with 'I look forward to...'

Talk The Talk – Supporting Your Oracy Strategy

We're a charity providing staff and students with a range of practical oracy workshops - all delivered by professional experts and qualified teachers, especially trained in the use of oracy as an educational tool.

Our workshops hone skills and support a consistent approach to oracy being employed in all subjects throughout your school.

Talk The Talk Teacher CPD	Staff
Talk About Transition	Years 6-7
Talk About Communication	Years 7-11
Talk About Communication Plus	Years 8-11
Talk About The Future	Years 11-13

We are delighted that our funder, Four Acre Trust, shares our vision. We can apply for a grant on behalf of your school to fund 50% of your student workshop costs. Let's see how we can work together to help your students become communicators for life.

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