

The Speech

Grace sat at her desk, feeling more and more nervous. She watched as Maria gave her presentation. Maria was telling the class all about the ancient Egyptians. Grace was impressed by the way Maria's spoke so clearly. She stood tall with her shoulders back, only occasionally looking down at her notes.

Don't rush. Speak clearly. Use eye contact.

Grace knew just what she had to do, but for some reason that all went out the window when she spoke in front of an audience. She knew she had a habit of speaking quickly when she was nervous. Grace had practiced her speech in front of the mirror at home many times. Her speech went for 4 minutes and 10 seconds. She knew from experience that a 4-minute speech in front of a mirror might only last for 2 minutes in front of an audience! She had drawn little turtles on her notes as a reminder for her.

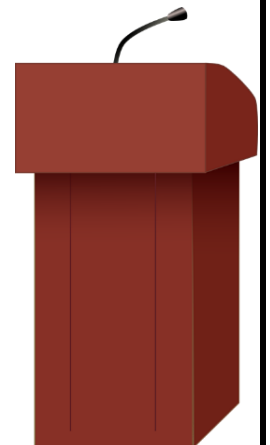
Grace also found keeping eye contact difficult. Looking up at the audience made her anxious. Trying to be helpful, her brother had told her to pretend the audience were in their underwear. Grace didn't really know how that was supposed to help, so she asked her dad for advice. He suggested looking just over the top of the heads of the audience.

"Thank you for listening," Maria said with a smile.

"Good Job, Maria," Mr Thompson said as the class applauded. "Grace, it's your turn." Grace took a deep breath. She stood and paused, taking a moment to collect her thoughts.

"Don't rush, speak clearly and use eye contact," she whispered to herself as she walked slowly to the front of the room.

"Good morning boys and girls," Grace said, eyes looking just over the heads of the students in her class. Grace smiled as she thought of the little turtles on her notes.



The Speech

Question Sheet 1

Task A: Comprehension

1. Was this Grace's first time speaking in front of an audience? How do you know?

2. What 3 things did Grace want to do well in her speech?

3. Which word from the text means 'nervous'?

4. What did Grace do to remind her to slow down?

5. List 3 clues that show Maria was confident giving her presentation.

6. Find 3 pieces of evidence that show Grace's speech will go well.

7. Summarise the text in 20 words or fewer.

Task B: Language and Grammar

1. **Speech marks** are used to show direct speech. For example:

“Thank you for listening,” Maria said.

Rewrite the following sentences, **adding speech marks** where they are needed.

a. Imagine everyone in their underwear, suggested Grace’s brother.

b. Grace’s dad asked, How did your speech go?

c. Thanks Grace, Mr Thompson said. Now it’s Jason’s turn.

2. Choose **conjunctions** from the box to join the simple sentences below.

a. Maria Sat down. She had finished her speech.

and	so	but
because	although	

b. Grace wanted to speak more slowly. She drew turtles on her notes.

c. Grace was nervous about her speech. She felt excited for the challenge.

d. She had written a good speech. She had practised it a lot.

Task C: Challenge

Write about a time you did something that made you nervous.