

Extended Speaking in the Classroom

Jon Hird, Italy TESOL November 2015

Why?

- Personalise language learning
- Authentic form of communication
- Focus on meaning
- Opportunity to tackle longer piece of spoken discourse
- 'Real-time' production
- Bridge divide between accuracy and fluency
- Motivating
- Enhance group dynamics
- Planning time

Talking about something with which they are familiar will be easier for accuracy than if they create something new from scratch. *Scott Thornbury*

Planned speech can give the speaker the opportunity to experiment with and therefore develop language. *Patrick Howarth*

Planning time allows students to devote attention to both form and content, rather than forcing them to choose one at the expense of the other. *Pauline Foster*

Research:

Non-planners: Pause 25 times Silent 90 secs Accuracy 70.25%

Planners: Pause 12 times Silent 21 secs Accuracy 81.35%

Foster / Hird

Example speaking activity:

You are going to talk about your most treasured possession. Choose from the following list the things you want to talk about.

What is your most treasured possession?

What's it made of?

How old is it?

How long have you had it?

Did somebody give it to you or did you acquire it yourself?

What special significance does it have?

Did it belong to somebody else before?

Does it remind you of a particular person or place?

Does it remind you of a time or event in the past?

Do you wear it, carry it around with you or does it stay in a special place?