

Extended Speaking in the Classroom

(and the Importance of Planning)

Jon Hird IATEFL Brighton 2018

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

Background:

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 overview:

Non-planners: Pause 25 times Silent 90 secs Accuracy 70%

Planners: Pause 12 times Silent 21 secs Accuracy 81%

Foster / Hird

Example speaking activities:

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| <p>Task A</p> <p>You are going to talk for two to three minutes about your favourite film, or one that you particularly like. Talk about some or all of the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what type of film it is.• what the main story is.• who the actors are and who the director is.• what you like about it.• where and when you saw it and who with.• why you decided to see it.• if the music is memorable.• if you would recommend this film. | <p>Task B</p> <p>You are going to talk for two to three minutes about your favourite music group or music artist, or one that you particularly like? Talk about some or all of the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the kind of music they play.• the group's line-up.• why you like them.• when you first heard them.• how often and when you listen to them.• your favourite song and/or album by them.• if you have ever seen them.• if they remind you of a particular person, place or time |
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