

**Classical Conversations  
Recommended Presentation Schedule**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SKILL FOCUS</b>
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Getting to Know Me</b></p> <p>Prepare a 2-minute presentation about yourself. Your tutor and others may ask you some additional questions to find out more about you!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eye contact</b></p> <p>Make 'eyes' to be used every week. Whenever a student makes eye contact with another, that student can turn their eyes over.</p>
2	<p>Tell us about more about your <b>family</b>. Mom, dad, grandparents, where were they born? Where have they lived? Share a funny story</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Good Posture</b></p> <p><i>Put your hands in front, stand up tall like someone has a string on top of your head and pull! Back straight and one leg slightly forward.</i></p>
3	<p>Tell us about your <b>hero</b>. Who is it? Why are they your hero? OR Who is your favorite Bible character?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hands</b></p> <p><i>Keep hands out of pockets, no jangling, no waving them around because they become a distraction. Keep them in front of you either folded in a relaxed way or fingertips touching in a relaxed way.</i></p>
4	<p>Choose a <b>painting or picture</b> from an art book or print a picture online. Tell what you like about it, how it makes you feel, what is going on in the picture and point out the 5 Basic Shapes of Drawing if you can!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Confidence</b></p> <p><i>3-second pause before starting, look around while speaking making eye contact and holding it for a couple of seconds.</i></p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tell us your favorite jokes or riddles</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Volume/Projection</b></p> <p><i>Projecting your voice without yelling. Speak loud enough so that someone across the room can hear you clearly.</i></p>
6	<p>Tell us about a <b>trip</b> you've taken. Where? What did you do? What did you see?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Articulation/Enunciation</b></p> <p><i>Speaking clearly. No mumbling!</i></p>

**Classical Conversations  
Recommended Presentation Schedule**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SKILL FOCUS</b>
7	Tell us about something that you enjoy. <b>Hobby, animal, book, activity, person</b>	<b>Review Skills</b> of Eye contact, posture, hands, confidence, volume and articulation
8	<b>Tell us about your friends.</b> What do you love / appreciate about each of them? Share a special memory of something you've done together.	<b>Pitch</b> <i>Not too high, not to low. Practice speaking on one note (monotony) then see-saw up and down. Speaking with variation of pitch. Careful not to sound like you're asking a question at the end of each sentence.</i>
9	<b>Geography</b> If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? What is it like?	<b>Tone</b> <i>Say 'Ham sandwich' in as many ways as you can - angrily, happily, sadly, lovingly, despairingly, laughingly, scared...</i>
10	<b>Recitation</b> Retell a short story (like Aesop) or recite a poem/nursery rhyme from memory.	<b>Power of the Pause</b> <i>Punctuation marks give clues as to when you pause. Pause at commas, periods, (semi) colons and hyphens.</i>
11	<b>Tell us about something interesting that you learned this week in your homeschool.</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b> <i>Practice good grammar, proper pronunciation, not 'lazy' - Eliminate commonly mispronounced words and phrases: I am going - 'I'm gonna'; I have got to 'I gotta' ; I want to - 'I wanna'; Let me - 'Lemme'; I am not - 'I ain't'; Ask - 'ax'; Don't you? - 'Doncha'; How did you? Where did you? What did you? 'howdja?', 'wheredja', 'whadja'</i>
12	What are some ways that you can <b>serve others</b> during the Christmas break? How can you help your family? Your friends?	<b>Diction</b> <i>Clearly articulate words. Practice by using diction exercises or tongue twisters. Practice these over the Christmas break.</i>

**Classical Conversations  
Recommended Presentation Schedule**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SKILL FOCUS</b>
13	<b>Tell us about your Christmas holidays.</b> What are some traditions? Where did you go? Who did you see?	<b>Review Skills</b> of Eye contact, posture, hands, confidence, volume and articulation. Pitch, tone, power of the pause, pronunciation and diction.
14	<b>Creative Demonstration</b> Bring something that you've made, drawn, and tell us about it. Or tell us how to do something.	<b>Using props</b> <i>Hold the props at chest level. Don't block your face, don't keep looking down, Show prop several times. No mumbling!</i>
15	<b>What is one of your favorite books?</b> (they can bring it to show but not read) or story and why? What is it about?	<b>Speed</b> <i>Speak at a pace that is comfortable. Too fast - sounds confusing, tense or gets hearts racing. Too slow - boring, laborious, drawn out. Try to sound natural, relaxed and free. Use a varied speed to keep it interesting.</i>
16	<b>Academic</b> Pick a topic from the Foundations Guide and tell the class about it. It may be a Timeline card, a geographic location, a history sentence, a science fact, or facts about a composer or artist.	<b>Stance</b> <i>Practice standing on two feet - don't play with your shoes, don't keep shifting around or being fidgety, keep connected to the floor. Stand at ease - comfortable Stand tall, shoulders relaxed, practice breathing deeply</i>
17	<b>Tell us something cool about the human body, or something you're learning in science.</b>	<b>Gesture</b> <i>Sometimes we use a flurry of gestures. Waving arms, pointing, clasping/ unclasping hands, fiddling, scratching, squeezing. If it doesn't bear a relationship to the subject matter, they become a distraction. Use gestures when they are related.</i>
18	<b>President</b> Choose a president and tell us something interesting about him.	<b>Smiling</b> <i>Smiles communicate <b>ease</b> and <b>confidence</b>. Breaks the ice and lightens the mood. You look warm and approachable. Smile several times while making eye contact but don't smile like a clown.</i>

**Classical Conversations  
Recommended Presentation Schedule**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SKILL FOCUS</b>
19	<b>Tell us about an animal.</b> Where does it live? Can it be a pet? How do you take care of it? Eat? Etc.	<b>Facial expression</b>
20	<b>Free Topic</b> You choose!	<b>Body Language</b> <i>Stand on both feet, hold head high, arms by side. Don't hang head, fold arms across chest, cross legs and arms, slouch.</i>
21	<b>Best rainy day activities</b>	<b>Review Skills</b>
22	Tell us about a <b>cool invention</b> . Could be one that has made our life easier (fridge, computer) or a something that you made up!	<b>Review Skills</b>
23	Tell us about a <b>special holiday</b> in another part of the world. What do they do? Do we have something like that in the US?	<b>Review Skills</b>
24	Tell us about a <b>world record</b> . If you had to break a world record what would it be? OR Tell us about your <b>summer plans</b> . Anything special?	<b>Review Skills</b>

*jpark*

*Skills Focus Ideas compiled and adapted from Write Out Loud by Susan Dugdale.*

<http://www.write-out-loud.com/>

Another resource: Beginning Public Speaking by Teresa M. Moon

## See below for some public speaking tips and fun diction exercises!

Are your knees knocking? Your heart racing?  
Here are a few tips to make your speech a success!

1. Breathe!
2. Be prepared!
3. Plan well – not at the last minute!
4. Practice at home in front of a mirror and in front of your family.
5. Use appropriate humor.
6. Write it all down and then practice with cue cards. Get rid of cue cards after you've practiced.

### Diction exercises

#### Diction Exercises for 'S' words:

*Six thick thistle sticks*

*Theophilus Thistler, the thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb.*

*The shrewd shrew sold Sarah seven sliver fish slices. Sister Susie sat on the sea shore sewing shirts for sailors.*

*Moses supposes his toeses are roses, But Moses supposes erroneously, For nobody's toeses are posies of roses As Moses supposes his toeses to be. (Pronounce the word 'toeses' to rhyme with 'Moses'.)*

#### Diction Exercises for 'B' words:

*Betty bought a bit of butter, but she found the butter bitter, so Betty bought a bit of better butter to make the bitter butter better.*

*Bill had a billboard. Bill also had a board bill. The board bill bored Bill, So Bill sold his billboard And paid his board bill. Then the board bill No longer bored Bill, But though he had no board bill, Neither did he have his billboard!*

#### For 'D' words try:

*Did Doug dig Dick's garden or did Dick dig Doug's garden?*

*Do drop in at the Dewdrop Inn*

#### Diction Exercises for 'F' words:

*Four furious friends fought for the phone*

*Five flippant Frenchmen fly from France for fashions*

**For 'H' words try:**

*How was Harry hastened so hurriedly from the hunt?*

**Diction Exercises for 'J' words:**

*James just jostled Jean gently.*

*Jack the jailbird jacked a jeep.*

**Diction Exercises for 'K' words:**

*Kiss her quick, kiss her quicker, kiss her quickest.*

*My cutlery cuts keenly and cleanly.*

**Diction Exercises for 'L' words:**

*Literally literary.*

*Larry sent the latter a letter later.*

*Lucy lingered, looking longingly for her lost lap-dog.*

**Diction Exercise for 'N' and 'U' sounds:**

*You know New York, You need New York, You know you need unique New York.*

**Diction Exercises for 'P' words:**

*Peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. If Peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, Where's the peck of pickled peppers that Peter Piper picked?*

*Pearls, please, pretty Penelope, Pretty Penelope, pretty Penelope, Pearls, please, pretty Penelope, Pretty Penelope Pring.*

**For 'Q' words:**

*Quick kiss. Quicker kiss. Quickest kiss.*

*Quickly, quickly, quickly, quickly, quickly...*

**For 'R' words:**

*Round the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.*

*Reading and writing are richly rewarding.*

**For 'T' words:**

*Ten tame tadpoles tucked tightly in a thin tall tin.*

*Two toads, totally tired, trying to trot to Tewkesbury.*

**For 'V' words:**

*Vincent vowed vengeance very vehemently.*

*Vera valued the valley violets.*

**And lastly, two especially for your tongue.**

*Red leather, yellow leather...*

*Red lorry, yellow lorry...*

***From the Pirates of Penzance:***

*'I am the very pattern of a modern Major-General; I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral; I know the Kings of England, and I quote the fights historical, From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical; I'm very well acquainted too with matters mathematical, I understand equations, both simple and quadratical, About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot o' news, With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse. I'm very good at integral and differential calculus, I know the scientific names of beings animalculous, In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral, I am the very model of a modern Major-General.'*

*Skills Focus Ideas compiled and adapted from Write Out Loud by Susan Dugdale.*

*<http://www.write-out-loud.com/>*