



Splendid
SPEAKING

Get Speaking!

Improving your communication skills and confidence in English

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**SUPPORTING
THIS TASK**



The Splendid Speaking Course
Volume 1 Unit 3 'Providing Examples'
Splendid Expressions
'Learning', 'Work'

LANGUAGE

Topic vocabulary

Increased job opportunities
To open up opportunities
To give you the edge
To be a compulsory subject
To narrow down one's options
To weigh up one's options
To go into (a profession)
To have long-term goals
To have the relevant skills
To arrange a work placement
To gain work experience
Entrance requirements (for a course)
To lack motivation/focus
To be motivated/focused
To make progress in/with
To have a good grasp of

Useful fillers when responding to questions:

That's a good question
It's funny you should ask
Well, let me see
To cut a long story short
Well, to be honest
It's difficult to say
That's a tricky one

RECORDING

Listen to Anca from Romania and Laurent from France making small talk. See the February archives (**Interview 16**) at: splendid-speaking.com

Unit 16: Career Choices

Task: Asking & Responding to Questions (3-4 minutes)

1. **Introduction:** Your teacher has given you the following note:

TASK

Practise your small talk skills. Work with someone in the group you know the least about. Find out more about their studies and career plans.

2. **Planning:** You should both spend a minute or two making notes on the kind of questions to ask. Think about the following subjects:
Your partner's reasons for studying English.
Whether they have a clear idea of their career.
How they're getting on with their studies.

Focus on asking open-ended questions which force the other person to give extended answers. Open-ended questions will often begin with:
Why ... | Where ... | What ... | Tell me ... | How ...
3. **Task Focus:** When answering questions try giving examples to explain or support some of the points you make.
4. **Language:** Use some of the fillers on the left if you need an extra second or two to think about what you want to say.

Task: Presentation (2-3 minutes)

Prepare a short presentation outlining the advice you would give to younger people about making career choices. If you wish, organise it around any of the following topics:

Identifying skills & personal qualities | Gaining work experience | When to decide

Add impact to your introduction AND engage your audience by asking rhetorical questions, then addressing the questions in the body of your talk.

'Do you feel well-suited for a particular profession or occupation?'
'How can we help ourselves find clues to that perfect career choice?'
'At what point in our lives should we be deciding on our career?'