



Splendid
SPEAKING

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Improving your communication skills and confidence in English

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**SUPPORTING
THIS TASK**

The Splendid Speaking Course

Volume 2 Unit 5

Language Focus: 'Describing Photographs'

LANGUAGE

Topic vocabulary

Formal/Less formal setting
Relaxed atmosphere
To take part in seminars
To attend lectures/class
Self-access facilities
Independent learning
To listen attentively
To take notes
To make contributions
To do pairwork/groupwork
To sit an exam
To share views/opinions
To carry out role-plays
To do self-directed study

Useful language for speculating

It will/must/might/can't have
Perhaps.../Maybe.../Possibly
I daresay
I suppose
I imagine
I wonder
No doubt
It's (un)likely that
In all likelihood
I bet
There's no way

RECORDING

Listen to Andrzej from Poland talking on a similar subject. See the March archives (**Interview 20**) at: splendid-speaking.com

Unit 20: Reflections on Education

Task: Presentation (1-2 minutes)

Compare, contrast and speculate on photographic scenes of different educational settings.

- 1. Planning: Choose the photographs to use for your presentation. Select two or three that differ in some way, for example a formal compared to a less formal setting, an indoor and an outdoor scene, or learners involved in different activities. Alternatively, choose two or three photos you feel have something in common. This will help you develop a theme and logic to your talk.**
- 2. Task focus: Try organising your talk around three main points.**
 - a) Start by identifying your choice of photographs and describe the general theme.
 - b) Then describe, compare and contrast the scenes.
 - c) Speculate on the atmosphere of each setting. Imagine what the people might be doing or feeling.
- 3. Language: Tick any of the vocabulary on the left you want to use. Try some of the language to speculate on the atmosphere and benefits of the scenes you're describing. Write down some of your own.**

Task: Role Play (15 minutes)

As part of a student committee you've been asked by your university to discuss the following proposal as a way of making education more flexible:

All lectures at university should be cancelled and made available as podcasts for students to listen to in their own time. The number of seminars to be reduced and extra sessions made available through online conferencing.

Discuss the pros and cons of this proposal and suggest two to three solutions of your own to help make access to education more flexible.

To ensure the discussion stays focussed, try using any of the following expressions if you find your group straying from the subject:

Anyway, where were we?
Getting back to the question of ...
What were you saying about ...?
Let's return to the issue of ...
You/Someone mentioned earlier that ...