

Confronting Challenging Sentences: Station Rotation and Panel of Experts

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APPENDIX A: Sample Station Descriptions

Station A: Pronunciation

- Listen to your vowel sounds. Note any words that could be clearer.
- Listen to your consonant sounds. Pay attention to the beginning and end of words—are they clear?
- Listen for words that could be linked smoothly together with no break in between.
- How can each of these aspects of pronunciation be improved?

Station B: Pacing and Pausing

- Listen and determine if you are pausing at the appropriate places.
- Listen and determine if you are speeding up and slowing down at the appropriate places.
- Which parts of the sentence should be faster/slower, louder/quieter? Listen for where the sentence focus (POWER) should be.

Station C: Word Stress

- Listen to each word. Is the stress on the correct syllable? If you are unsure, try it in each syllable until it sounds natural and correct to you.
- Is the vowel of the stressed syllable clear? Word stress is almost always on a vowel, and the vowel of the stressed syllable should be extra long and extra clear.
- Use the vowel chart(s) if you are unsure or ask your teacher.

Station D: Sentence Focus

- Listen for POWER to be in the appropriate place in each sentence.
- Which parts of the sentence that should be faster/slower, louder/quieter? Where should the sentence focus be?
- Try “backward-buildup” for very long sentences.

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Station E: "Q & A" and Specialized Vocabulary

- Listen to the speaker's use of specialized vocabulary (if there is any). Are the terms spoken VERY clearly?
- Offer suggestions for how the speaker can explain a complex term in very simple English words.
- Ask a question (in fast English) about the speaker's sentences. The speaker might have to ask for clarification.

Note to Speaker

- If you do not understand the listener's question during Q & A, then use one of the clarification questions we have learned in class.
- Practice what you will do during the Q & A if you truly do not understand one of the audience questions.

**APPENDIX B: Sample Listener Roles at Various Stations
(if using the partner option)**

Station A: Pronunciation

Role of the Listener

- Listen to the speaker’s vowel sounds. Note any words that could be clearer.
- Listen to the speaker’s consonant sounds. Pay attention to the beginning and end of words—are they clear?
- Listen for words that could be linked smoothly together with no break in between.
- Offer feedback to the speaker on each of these aspects of pronunciation and then see if the speaker improves.

Station B: Pacing and Pausing

Role of the Listener

- Listen and determine if the speaker is pausing at the appropriate places.
- Listen and determine if the speaker is speeding up and slowing down at the appropriate places.
- Offer suggestions for parts of the sentence that should be faster/slower or louder/quieter, or on where the sentence focus should be.

Station C: Specialized Vocabulary and “Q & A”

Role of the Listener

- Listen to the speaker’s use of specialized vocabulary (if there is any). Are the terms spoken VERY clearly?
- Offer suggestions for how the speaker can explain a complex term in very simple English words.
- Ask a question (in fast English) about the speaker’s sentences. The speaker might have to ask for clarification.

Note to Speaker

- If you do not understand the listener’s question during “Q & A,” then use one of the clarification questions we have learned in class.
- Practice what you will do during the Q & A if you truly do not understand one of the audience questions.