

CREATING Compelling Conversations

Deploying Search and Share Activities on Zoom

Search & Share Handouts

Virtual ELT Summit 2020

International Society for Educational Leadership

Eric H. Roth

Master Lecturer
University of Southern California
ericroth@usc.edu

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Listening to the Radio and Podcasts to Learn English

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Do you listen to the radio or podcasts? How can you use the radio and podcasts to improve your listening skills in English? There are hundreds of excellent radio programs from news (BBC, Marketplace, NPR News, Voice of America) to culture shows (ThisAmericanLife, Science Fridays). Please find a radio program that you would like to share with your classmates. Listen to the radio program, find the transcript (text), take notes, and share the program with classmates.

Radio broadcast/podcast title: _____

Web address: _____

Length: _____ Narrator: _____

- 1 Why did you choose this program?
- 2 Please describe the radio program or podcast.
- 3 What was the main idea of the radio broadcast/podcast?
- 4 What did you learn listening to the segment?
- 5 How many times did you listen to the broadcast? Why?
- 6 What was the most interesting part of the radio show or podcast? Why?
- 7 List and explain five (5) new English vocabulary words you learned from the program.
 - a
 - b
 - c
 - d
 - e
- 8 Who do think is the target audience for this program? Why?
- 9 Who would you recommend this program to? Why?
- 10 How would you rate the program on a scale of 1–5, with 5 being the highest? Why?

“**In radio, you have two tools. Sound and silence.**”
—Ira Glass (1959-), American radio personality and host of “This American Life”





Finding English Pronunciation Tips on YouGlish

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Do you know **YouGlish.com** yet? Go to the impressive pronunciation site. Put in a word that you have trouble saying clear enough in English. Listen to five different authentic speakers use the word. Read the pronunciation tips listed on website. Now compare that word to a similar, but different word. Repeat this activity for a phrase, an academic term, and a minimum pair (sea/she, sink/think, live/leave). Listen carefully, take notes, and share the pronunciation tips with your classmates.

- 1 What word did you first choose? Why?
- 2 What was the first video shown? Who was the speaker?
- 3 What pronunciation tips did YouGlish.com provide for this word?
- 4 What were some similar words? List a few.
- 5 Which word from your list did you choose to compare with the original word?
- 6 What phrase did you choose? Why?
- 7 What academic term or specialized word did you choose? Why?
- 8 Which minimal pair did you choose? Why?
- 9 What pronunciation tips did you learn?
- 10 How can you use YouGlish.com to improve your pronunciation?

“The bold adventurer succeeds the best.”
– Ovid (43 B.C.E. – 17 C.E.), Roman poet





Understanding Plagiarism

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

What do you know about plagiarism? How is it seen in your country? Plagiarism is a common educational concern, and many English teachers stress the importance of understanding how to use/reference another's work appropriately. Search for a recent article or brochure that describes and discusses plagiarism. After, answer the following questions:

Title: _____

Web address: _____

Author: _____ Length: _____

Publication: _____ Publication date: _____

- 1 How does the article/brochure describe plagiarism?
- 2 What is the author's opinion about plagiarism?
- 3 According to the article, what are three (3) practices considered to be plagiarism?
 - a
 - b
 - c
- 4 According to the article, what are three (3) ways one can avoid plagiarism?
 - a
 - b
 - c
- 5 Based on what you read, when is it considered plagiarism to use someone's ideas? Why?
- 6 What did you learn from the article that you did not know before?
- 7 In your opinion, is it possible to plagiarize unintentionally? Why or why not?
- 8 How would you feel if someone plagiarized your work? Why?
- 9 Do you think plagiarism is a major problem? How widespread do you think it is in your school?
- 10 How would you rate the article/brochure on a scale of 1–5, with 5 being the highest? Why?

“**‘Fine words! I wonder where you stole them?’**
—Jonathan Swift (1667–1745) - Anglo-Irish satirist and essayist”



Looking at Languages

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

All of the world's languages, estimated at least 6,000, have stories. English, for example, has become the world's most influential language in business and science over the last 50 years.

Besides English, what language are you curious about? Can you tell us more about another language? Go to to Wikipedia to gain more information about another language spoken on planet Earth. Take notes and answer the following questions. Discuss your research with your classmates.

- 1 What language did you choose to study today? Why did you pick it?
- 2 Where is this language usually spoken? How many people, approximately, speak it?
- 3 Can you tell me a bit more about this language?
- 4 Where is this language an official language?
- 5 Is this an ancient or modern language? How do you know?
- 6 What are five words that English borrows from this language?
 - a
 - b
 - c
 - d
 - e
- 7 Who are some famous people who speak this language?
- 8 What music or movies are created in this language? Can you give some examples?
- 9 How similar is this language to English? In what ways?
- 10 In what situations would knowing how to speak this language be helpful?

“The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.”

—Oprah Winfrey (1954–), American star and philanthropist



Examining a TED Talk

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Have you heard about TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) talks yet? These “riveting talks by remarkable people” according to TED.com, come from global experts in many disciplines. The presenters give personal presentations that address many important, entertaining topics in short, engaging talks. Themes range from culture, science, and happiness to business, education, and technology. Find a short video on a topic of particular interest to you. Watch and listen to the talk two times before answering the following questions. Finally, be prepared to review the TED talk for your classmates in small group discussions.

Video title: _____

Length: _____ Speaker: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

- 1 What is the speaker’s background?
- 2 Who was the audience?
- 3 How did the speaker begin the presentation?
- 4 What is the theme of the talk? Does it match the title? How?
- 5 What was a memorable part of this TED talk? What made it memorable?
- 6 How did the speaker connect to the audience? (Humor, visual aids, etc.)
- 7 What did the speaker want to accomplish? Do you think the speaker achieved their goals?
- 8 Did the speaker convince you? Why or why not?
- 9 Why did you choose this TED talk?
- 10 How would you rate this TED talk on a scale of 1–5, with five being the highest? Why?

“We only think when confronted with a problem.”
— John Dewey (1859- 1952), American philosopher and educational reformer





Exploring Engineering in Daily Life

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Are you interested in science, technology, and engineering? Find an illuminating article documenting how science and technology influence our daily life from **wired.com** or **popsci.com** (**Popular Science**) and fill in this worksheet. Be prepared to share your summary and evaluation with your classmates in small group discussions.

Title: _____

Web address: _____

Author: _____ Date: _____

- 1 What's the main idea of the article you chose?
- 2 How many sources does the author cite? What is the most recent source?
- 3 What kind of illustrations were used?
- 4 What is the strongest features of the article?
- 5 Write five new vocabulary words, idioms, or expressions related to the topic.

a

b

c

d

e

- 6 What did you learn from the article that you did not know before?
- 7 Why did you choose this article?
- 8 How would you rate the article on a scale of 1–5, with 5 being the highest? Why?
- 9 Why is engineering an important field today?
- 10 What technological changes have you seen in your lifetime?

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

—Arthur C. Clarke (1917-2008), English writer





Exploring New Career Opportunities

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Choosing a career path can be a difficult decision. However, researching occupations that best fit your abilities and interests is a good place to start! Explore a career at **glassdoor.com**, which provides helpful information on duties, education, compensation, and predictions for hundreds of occupations. You can also consult the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), and online tool from The U.S. Department of Labor, for additional information.

Choose a job listing from the site that interests you, and answer the following questions.

Job Title: _____

Company: _____

Experience Level: _____ Date Posted: _____

- 1 What duties and responsibilities are listed in the job description?
- 2 What training and skills does this job require?
- 3 What are the working conditions like?
- 4 Are there opportunities for job growth in this position?
- 5 Is this position currently in high demand? Why or why not?
- 6 What benefits (health insurance, paid time off, etc.) are included with this position?
- 7 What are the national average earnings for this position? City average?
- 8 What are the disadvantages of holding this job? Why?
- 9 What else would you like to know about this job?
- 10 Why did you choose this position? Why might this career match your skills and personality?

“Do the best you can until you know better.
Then when you know better, do better.”
—Maya Angelou (1928–2014), American poet



Choosing a Local Restaurant

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Do you use Yelp.com yet? Find and share a positive review for a local restaurant that you like. Pick a favorite local restaurant, do some research, and pick the best review— in English. Use this worksheet to tell us about the review.

Remember restaurant reviews should provide examples and details. Tell us about a special restaurant—in English—and help us find a place to eat delicious food.

Restaurant: _____ Location: _____

Reviewer: _____ Review: _____

- 1 Why did you pick this review?
- 2 How does the reviewer describe the restaurant? What kind of food does it serve?
- 3 When was the review written?
- 4 What do you know about the reviewer?
- 5 What does the reviewer say about the restaurant's atmosphere?
- 6 How did the reviewer describe the restaurant's service?
- 7 What did the reviewer eat?
- 8 What was the best part of the restaurant review?
- 9 Does the reviewer recommend the restaurant? Why?
- 10 How often have you been to the restaurant? Why do you recommend this restaurant?

“One man's meat is another man's poison.”

—Latin proverb



Responding to Yelp! Reviews

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Bad reviews aren't all bad; sometimes they provide valuable feedback for businesses that want to improve. Find a negative review of a hotel, restaurant, or other business that describes a negative customer experience in detail. Then answer the following questions.

- 1 What is the name of the business?
- 2 What type of business is it? What services do they provide?
- 3 What complaints are made in the review? Are they related to service, efficiency, or something else?
- 4 What is the tone of the review? Does the reviewer come across as reasonable or rude? Why?
- 5 Is the criticism in the review constructive/helpful? Why or why not?

Now, imagine you are the owner or manager of this business. How would you respond to this customer's complaints and concerns? Write a brief response to the reviewer below.

“The details are not the details. They make the design.”
—Charles Eames (1907-1978), American designer





Should You Buy It?

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Product reviews are increasingly popular, and you can find many places to share reviews. For your next class, pick a consumer product to review. Do some research online about the product. Find at least two sources of information. Then fill in this worksheet and create a product review. Share with your classmates.

Product: _____ Company: _____

Source: _____ Date: _____

- 1 Do you own the product?
- 2 What is the purpose of the product?
- 3 Who is the target audience for this product? Who usually uses it?
- 4 How is the product used?
- 5 What is the best feature of this consumer product?
- 6 What competitors does the product have? Does this product have a competitive advantage?
- 7 Are there some possible dangers or misuses of the product?
- 8 What did you learn from your research about this product?
- 9 Would you recommend this product to your classmates? Do you have some concerns about this product?
- 10 How would you rate the product on a scale of 1–5, with five being the highest? Why?

“The customer is always right.”
—American proverb



Reviewing Movies

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Can you recommend an excellent movie? First, select one of your favorite films. Second, go to **imdb.com** or **metacritic.com** and research your selected film. Third, take notes. A strong movie review will combine both facts and opinions. Use this short worksheet to describe the movie and prepare to share your informed opinion with your classmates.

Movie Title: _____ Length: _____

Year released: _____ Director: _____

Actors/Actresses: _____ Awards: _____

How many times have you watched the movie? Where?

Plot Information:

- 1 Where and when does the movie take place?
- 2 Who is the main character? Can you briefly describe another important character?
- 3 What happens in the movie?
- 4 What is the best part? Why?
- 5 Does the movie surprise the audience? How?
- 6 Who do you think would like this movie?
- 7 How could the movie be better?
- 8 How would you rate the movie on a scale of 1–5, with 5 being the highest? Why?
- 9 Can you choose five adjectives to describe this movie? Why?

“Every great film should seem new every time you see it.”
—Roger Ebert (1942–2013), American film critic





Talking About My Hometown

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

All people are shaped by the place where they were born or grew up. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? What would you like to tell us about your hometown?

Please find a story on the Internet (in English) about your hometown or local region that you would like to share with your classmates. Read the article, print it out, and be prepared to discuss it.

Title: _____

Author: _____ Length: _____

Publication: _____ Publication date: _____

- 1 What's the main idea?
- 2 Were there any photos or illustrations? What kind?
- 3 What did you learn from this article?
- 4 What was the most interesting part for you?
- 5 How many sources were quoted?
- 6 What information was missing? What else should people know about your hometown?
- 7 Write five interesting vocabulary words, idioms, or expressions in the article. Provide definitions for new words.
 - a
 - b
 - c
 - d
 - e
- 8 How would you rate the article, on a scale of 1–5, with five being the highest? Why?
- 9 Why did you choose this article?
- 10 How has your hometown changed in the last decade?

“The city must never be confused with the words that describe it.
And yet, between one and the other, there is a connection.”
—Italo Calvino (1923-1985), Italian novelist



Celebrating Birthdays

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Everyone has a birthday. The day you came into this world marked a significant change for those around you.

Do you know what the world was like the day you were born? Do you know how life changed for your family that day? Conduct an Internet search and talk to a relative to find out what life was like when you were born. Take notes and answer the following questions. Discuss your findings with your classmates.

- 1 Where were you born? Describe the place where you were born.
- 2 Who was present at your birth?
- 3 What were some surprises surrounding your birth?
- 4 What was happening in the world when you were born? What were some major news stories at this time?
- 5 What songs were popular when you were born?
- 6 What were some popular movies that year?
- 7 Who are some famous people who share your birthday?
- 8 Who do you typically celebrate your birthday with? Why?
- 9 Do you have any special plans to celebrate your next birthday? Why?
- 10 What has been the best year of your life so far? Why?

“The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.”

—Oprah Winfrey (1954–), American star and philanthropist



Handling Culture Shock

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Culture shock occurs when a person feels disoriented in a new environment because they are unfamiliar with the local lifestyle and customs. It's a common experience for immigrants, international students, tourists and ex-pats alike! Choose a video about culture shock online, watch and take notes. Then answer the following questions.

- 1 How does the video you chose describe culture shock?
- 2 Is there more than one kind of culture shock? Explain.
- 3 According to the video, how long does culture shock typically last?
- 4 List five tips for overcoming culture shock provided in the video.
 - a
 - b
 - c
 - d
 - e
- 5 What do you appreciate about being in the United States?
- 6 What do you find uncomfortable about American culture?
- 7 What are some ways that American culture is different from yours?
- 8 How would you rate the video on a scale of 1–5, with 5 being the highest? Why?
- 9 Have you experienced culture shock? In what ways?
- 10 What advice would you offer an international student coming to the U.S. for a year?

“Coming back to America was, for me, much more of a cultural shock than going to India.”

—Steve Jobs (1955-2011), American entrepreneur and Apple co-founder



Student Name: _____ Date: _____
Home Country: _____ Best Language: _____
Field: _____ Future Job Title: _____

- 1 Why do you want to speak better English? Give three reasons.
 - a
 - b
 - c
- 2 How can speaking better English help you?
- 3 What activities or methods have you found most helpful in improving your English? Why?
- 4 What is the most helpful English class that you have had? Tell us more about that class.
- 5 What are some reasons some people sometimes dislike English class?
- 6 How else could speaking more fluent English change your life outside of school?
- 7 Can you list three topics that you would like to discuss with your classmates this semester?
 - a
 - b
 - c
- 8 What are your strengths as an English language learner?
- 9 What are some challenges that you want to work on this semester?
- 10 What three things can you do this semester to improve your English?

Peer Response and a Question

Speaker: _____ Topic: _____

Time: _____ Date: _____

Short Answers:**1** What was good about this presentation? What worked?**2** What could they have done better? What still needs to be improved?**3** Other observations and tips:

4 Write two tips for the student presenter to do better on the next presentation.**a****b****5** Ask a question to the speaker.

“It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.”
—Albert Einstein (1879–1955), American scientist

Speaker: _____ Topic: _____

Time: _____ Date: _____

Presentation Checklist

- ☐ Have I practiced many times?
- ☐ Did I get feedback from a classmate/friend?
- ☐ Have I timed my presentation (if applicable)?
- ☐ Do I introduce myself (if applicable)?
- ☐ Do I maintain eye contact?
- ☐ Do I explain my visuals (if applicable)?
- ☐ Do I pause sometimes and check for understanding?
- ☐ Did I look up words to correct my pronunciation?
- ☐ Am I using appropriate volume so that everyone can hear?

Self-evaluation

Indicate the extent to which you agree with the statement on the left, using a scale of 1-4 (1=**strongly disagree**; 2=**disagree**; 3=**agree**; 4=**strongly agree**). Total the numbers in each column.

Evaluation Criteria	Scale	Feedback
I spoke clearly .		
I spoke at an appropriate volume .		
I spoke at a comfortable pace .		
I faced the audience.		
I stood up straight and looked professional .		
I used effective hand gestures .		
I made eye contact with the entire audience.		
The introduction caught the audience's attention.		
I provided some clear examples .		
I concluded the speech in an effective way.		
I provided solid answers to questions.		
Total:		

What do you like about your presentation? What worked?

What could you have done better? What still needs to be improved?

Other observations and tips:

What are two things you will do differently in your next presentation?



Eric H. Roth

teaches international graduate students the pleasures and perils of academic writing and public speaking in English at the University of Southern California (USC) as a Master Lecturer. He also consults with English language schools on communicative methods to effectively teach English.

Given a full scholarship as a Lilly Scholar, Roth studied philosophy and American history at Wabash College (1980-1984), and received his M.A. in Media Studies from the New School (1988). Since 1992, Roth has taught English to high school, community college, adult, and university students.

Highlights include teaching USC writing courses in Spain (2007) and Paris, France (2008); and directing the APU International High School in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2009). USC also awarded Roth two USC Teaching with Technology grants in 2012. He has also given several TESOL presentations since 2011, and has helped USC students applying for Fulbright positions as English Teaching Assistants (ETA) since 2012. Roth also served on the National Selection Committee for the Fulbright ETA program for Southeast Asia in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Roth co-authored *Compelling Conversations: Questions and Quotations on Timeless Topics* in 2006 to help English language learners increase their English fluency. Recommended by English Teaching Professional magazine, this advanced ESL textbook has been used in over 50 countries in English classrooms and conversation clubs. Easy English Times, an adult literacy newspaper, has published a monthly column, “Instant Conversation Activities,” based on the book since 2008. The first specific version for a particular country, Vietnam, was published in 2011. *Compelling American Conversations: Questions and Quotations for Intermediate American English Language Learners* appeared in 2012 and a Teacher Edition followed in 2015. *Compelling Conversations – Japan* came out in 2015. Roth and Nguyen coauthored an expanded, second edition of *Compelling Conversations – Vietnam: Speaking Exercises for Vietnamese Learners of English* in 2017.

A member of the USC faculty since 2003, Roth is also a member of numerous professional organizations including: California Association of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CATESOL); the International Communication Association (ICA); the International Professors Project (IPP); and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Roth has given several CATESOL and TESOL conference presentations and led many teacher training workshops. He writes short reflective essays, reviews ESL/EFL related books and apps, and shares ELT teaching tips at CompellingConversations.com/blog.

Roth looks forward to learning something new today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow.