

FRESHMEN FLUENCY

Fluency in Yourself and your Major

It's time they speak



Fluency in yourself and your major

Write it, say it, transcribe it, correct it

More speaking = more self-correcting = more improvement

Write what you will say

Write what you will say
Writing before speaking improves accuracy

Talk about what you wrote
Speaking to others improves fluency

Ask ONE question. Talk a while. AFTER they answer, you can ask a 2nd follow-up question.

1. What did you do last Saturday? What did you do on Sunday? What did you do last weekend? (Just Saturday. Start like you're about to compare games for 10 hours. I played when I'm hungry.)
2. Do you belong to Facebook? Twitter? Instagram? Do you have your own website? (Nothing is broken. That's kind of the reason why I'm here. I'm here because I'm here.)
3. What kind of phone do you have? How much money? How big is your data plan? (I have an iPhone 16 Pro Max. It's like a mini computer. I love it.)
4. How many texts do you send and get per day? What texting app do you use? (I use iMessage. I use it every day. I use it every day. I use it every day.)
5. Did you ever use your phone in an emergency? (I never did. But every time I see a car accident, and I see the police and ambulances.)
6. How many songs are on your phone? What do you get there from? (I have about 100 songs. I get them from iTunes. I use it every day. I use it every day.)
7. What computer programs do you know? Are you a computer expert? (I know the basics. I know the basics. I know the basics.)
8. Do you have a desktop computer and printer in your bedroom? (I don't have a desktop computer. I don't have a printer. I don't have a printer.)

Really? Me too? Why? When? Where? Who? How often?
Answer: Whatever. Kind of. Not really. It depends.

→ Tech & Testing

Talk about what you wrote



Transcribe what you said



Correct what you said



This is the last English course most students will take in their whole life.

What are you waiting for?

Make speaking the goal, and let them speak.

Shy freshmen have 30 hours of conversations, and 3 conversation tests.

Speaking improves 60%, and their transcripts prove it.



Preview

This is the Class

Speed Dating pair conversations.

Many partners improve **fluency**. Better partners improve **accuracy**.

Everybody's speaking half the time, and half the time your partner's a better speaker.



This is the Test

Three students have a real-world conversation.

Record it with your phone, transcribe just what you said.

While transcribing, you **hear, type, read** and **correct** every mistake you made.



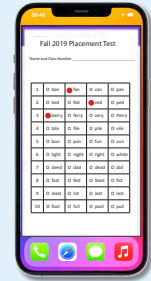
The test was not added to the class. The test enables the class.

Real-world conversation tests result in real-world conversation classes.

The Big 5

1 Placement Test 12 minutes to give, and Google grades it

1. Determine their ability.
2. Which determines their first conversation test partners.
3. *How can you improve their ability until you know their ability?*



2 Week 4 Practice Conversation Test

1. Determine their ability before they start improving too much.
2. Measure 10 weeks of improvement, instead of 6.
3. Students go, *Aha! This is what the class is about.*



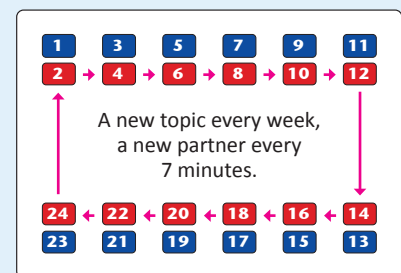
3 Homework is what makes them speak

1. It's 40% of their grade, they do it or they fail.
2. Without writing beforehand, beginning speakers cannot speak for 2 hours.
3. Students write it, they want to use it.



4 Speed Dating Systematic improvement

1. Many partners improve **fluency**.
2. Better partners improve **pronunciation, vocabulary and accuracy**.
3. Improvement is a mathematical certainty



5 Conversation Test Data and Feedback

1. MS Word gives their speaking ability data
2. When students transcribe, they **hear, type and read** every mistake they made.
3. What gets tested gets done




PREVIEW: Write what you will say

There's no read and guess.

All homework is writing what you will say.

30 minutes of homework generates 3 hours of conversations.

Just add partners

Write what you will say Writing before Speaking improves Accuracy	Talk about what you wrote Speaking to many partners improves Fluency 
<p>Ask ONE question. Talk a while. AFTER they answer, you can ask a red follow-up question.</p> <p>1 What did you do last Saturday? <i>What did you do on Sunday? What did you do last winter?</i> <i>Last Saturday I slept late and then played computer games for 10 hours. I stopped when I got hungry.</i> <i>Last Saturday I went to my hometown, Kwangju and met my high school friends.</i></p> <p>2 Do you belong to Facebook? Twitter? Instagram? <i>Do you have your own website?</i> <i>I belong to Facebook. That's kind of the center of my social universe. I contact everyone from there.</i> <i>I belong to Facebook, mainly because that's my major students communicate.</i></p> <p>3 What kind of phone do you have? <i>How much memory? How big is your data plan?</i> <i>I have an iPhone 12, the big one. Gold. It has 132GB. The data plan is unlimited. I surf a lot.</i> <i>I have an iPhone 16 Pro Max. It's like a mini computer. I love it.</i></p> <p>4 How many texts do you send and get per day? <i>What texting program do you use?</i> <i>I guess I do about average, about 100 texts out and in. I use Mini-many-chat. It's free and has great emojis.</i></p> <p>5 Did you ever use your phone in an emergency? <i>I never did, but once my father saw a car accident, and he called the police and ambulance.</i></p> <p>6 How many songs are on your phone? <i>Where do you get them from?</i> <i>I have about 200 songs, I get them from iTunes. Once a week I listen and transcribe a song.</i></p> <p>7 What computer programs do you know? <i>Are you an expert at any?</i> <i>I know the basics: Word, Excel and Powerpoint. I want to learn Photoshop and Keynote.</i></p> <p>8 Do you have a desktop computer and printer in your bedroom? <i>My older brother and I share a desktop computer. We have a printer. The text is clear but photos are so-so.</i></p> <p><i>Really Me too Why? When? Where? Who? How often?</i> <i>Anyway Whatever Kind of Half and half It depends</i></p> <p>2 Tech & Texting</p>	<p>Ask questions in order, or at random. Or even numbers today, odd numbers next class.</p> <p>9 Do you ever watch YouTube videos? <i>How much time do you spend there per week?</i> <i>Oh, I love watching videos on YouTube. I like new movie clips and old music videos. For example, David Bowie</i></p> <p>10 What's your favorite computer game? <i>On a scale of 1 to 10, how good are you?</i> <i>I'm addicted to Starcraft. I play it every day for about an hour, and for hours on the weekends. I need help.</i></p> <p>11 What will be your next tech purchase? <i>Do you prefer to shop online or on foot?</i> <i>I want to get some wireless earphones. I think those are so cool. I would also like a laptop, but a small one.</i></p> <p>12 Do you have any group chats on Kakao? <i>Who all is in the group? How often do you chat?</i> <i>I have three groups, actually. My high school friends, my university friends, and my family.</i></p> <p>13 How many phones have you had in your life? <i>How many have you lost? Broken?</i> <i>I've had about four phones. All hand-me-downs. Whenever my father gets a new phone, I get his old one.</i></p> <p>14 How often do you legally download a movie? <i>Illegally? Would you recommend it?</i> <i>I never download, but my older brother downloads one English movie a week for his class. Legally, I think.</i></p> <p>15 Do you ever do any homework research online? <i>Ever bought a ticket online?</i> <i>Sometimes I'll surf for articles for my Current Events class. I watched my mom get an airline ticket once.</i></p> <p>16 What will you do after school? <i>What will you do this weekend?</i> <i>This weekend I'm going get a new phone. I lost mine last Friday night. My parents were not happy.</i></p> <p>For example? What about you?</p> <p>2 Tech & Texting</p>

It's human nature

After writing it, students want to use it

Shy Korean freshmen positively burst into loud conversations

It's speaking preparation

Without writing beforehand, beginning speakers cannot speak for 2 hours.

Writing before Speaking enables, and motivates, students to speak.

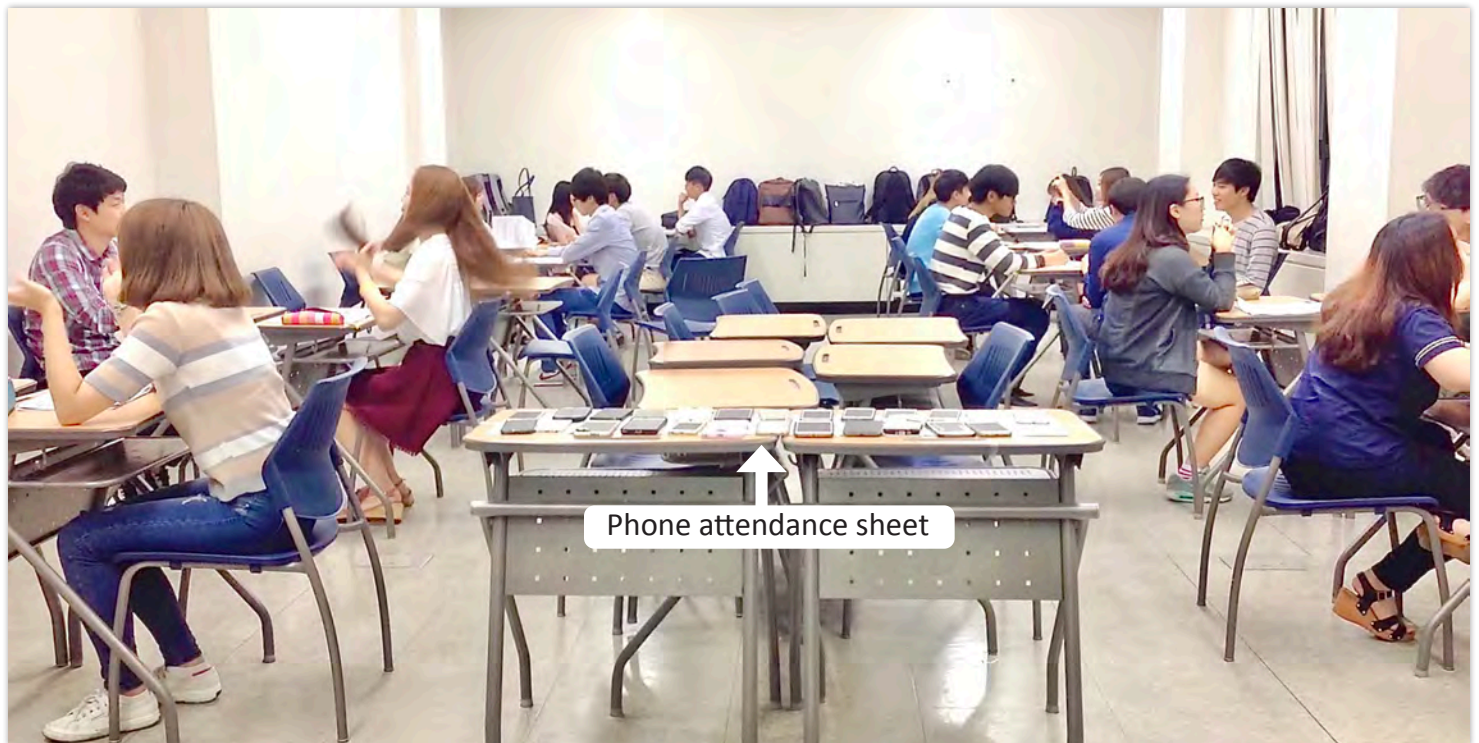
Homework is worth 40% of their grade. They do it or they fail.

Talk about what you wrote

The class is Speed Dating pair conversations

Fluency improves like this:

1. Everybody's speaking half the time, half the time your partner's a better speaker
2. Many partners improve fluency, better partners improve accuracy
3. After two weeks of no grammar police, students relax and start to self-correct
4. The 2 or 3 best speakers in class are role models who provide gentle language gain



Bigger classes are better in every way

More partners of similar ability, more improvement, and more accurate tests.

The bigger the classroom the better

In regular classrooms pairs are too close together, and switching is chaos.

No electronics, period. PERIOD.

If a student looks at their watch, take that away also.

The less teachers talk, the more students improve.

It's a mathematical certainty. Bigger classes are better.
More partners = more repetition = more improvement.

Transcribe what you said

17 minutes

3 students have a real-world conversation and record it with their phone



2 hours

While transcribing, you'll hear, type and read every mistake you made



Self-correct

While transcribing, you will hear, type and read every mistake you made. Your transcript shows:

- 1 How many words you spoke
- 2 How many times you spoke
- 3 Average words per turn
- 4 Vocabulary underlined and listed
- 5 Mistakes are highlighted
- 6 Top 5 Mistakes are corrected

1
2
3

I spoke 400 words ÷ 36 times = 11.1 words per turn

VOCABULARY		
PERSONALITY	EDUCATION	TECHNOLOGY
party animal	idea person	tech savvy
couch potato	brainiac	nerd
early bird	slacker	4
suffer in silence	procrastinate	
	early bird	

The top 5 mistakes I will fix are:

1. 6 I have four families.
There are four in my family.
2. I'm live in Seoul
I live in Seoul.
3. Have you ever been to abroad?
Have you ever traveled abroad?
4. After class I go to home.
After class I'll go home.
5. My father she works out of town a lot.
My father works out of town a lot

1. I'm like you. I have four families. Where do you live? 5
2. I'm live in Seoul. Where is your hometown?
3. My hometown is Yeosu. My grandfather was a fisherman. Father's father. Funny. On my mother's side of family they are allergic to fish.
4. Yes, I'm a freshman.
5. Yes, I joined a club. But, I don't know the name in English. Something like "Loner's Club."
6. In the club just what I like doing what I like is OK.
7. Yes, I'm a morning person.
8. Yes I just went OT and registration OT.
9. That's all I went.
10. I'm couch potato too. 4

11. When I don't go to school, when I'm not in a school, I'm usually at home.
12. So, when I'm in home, I just resting. Usually I don't drink too much.
13. What's what?
14. Oh. Wow. Have you ever been to abroad?
15. I went to Osaka Universal Studios last winter vacation. It was awesome. I went with my family and we also visit my aunt who lives in Japan. I love take a trip.
16. My parents are half and half. My mother is strict and my mother is lenient. What about you?
17. Oh. I recently registered a gym. Before I jogging. I'm kind of loner.
18. So I go to gym to lose my weight. Maybe a little.
19. Are you good at running?
20. What about you?
21. I'm not outdoor person.
22. No, that's not that hard exercising.
23. I'm not good at exercising. I just very like watching baseball.
24. I don't know.
25. After class I go to home.
26. In economics, there are two soccer clubs. Ah, in business department, there are two soccer clubs.
27. But I think they are more drinking club than sports club.
28. One is not that good at soccer just enjoying soccer.
29. And another is very good at soccer.
30. I want to be party animal, but I have no money. What about you?
31. I usually hang out near Hongdae on the weekends.
32. These days I need to catch up on my studies because I fall behind.
33. I'm expecting this weekend. I will get some quality time with my parents. My father she works out of town a lot.
34. Were you happy with your presentation?
35. I did a lot of presentations last semester, so I pretty much knew how to do it. I made many bloopers. I spent hours fixing bloopers. What about you?
36. What will your next presentation be on?

I did all this in 2 hours ←

That's a lot of well-organized, personal feedback. In 2 hours.

Self-correct

What about mistakes? The more the better.
More mistakes = more self-correction = more improvement

What courses are you taking?



Oh my gosh! I said that?



Correct your mistakes



The week after midterm, watch your test with your partners and fill out the Feedback Checklist.



Feedback Checklist

Name in English, last name first _____ Class & Number _____

Listen to your test again, 17 minutes. Make notes, put checks _____ if you did something several times.

- Who kept the conversation going by asking questions quickly, you _____ your partners _____?
- Who spoke in the strongest, loudest voice, you _____ your partners _____?
- Did you let your partners talk enough? _____
- Did one of your partners speak too much? _____
- Did you self-correct? (My brother she... he) _____
- Use Kind of, half and half, it depends _____
- Help explain something to your partner? _____
- Say "In my case" _____ "very like, very hate"? _____ "to me" _____ "almost" _____
- Have a long pause before you asked a question? _____
- Keep the conversation going by asking questions, or did your partner? _____
- Do you feel that one of your partners talked too much? _____
- How was your pronunciation? _____
- What words did you pronounce badly? _____
- What new mistakes did you notice? _____
- What mistakes did your partner's make? _____
- What vocabulary could you have used? _____
- How can you improve for your next test? _____
- Do you try to arrange perfect grammar in your head before speaking? _____
- Do you sound like a successful, confident person _____ or a shy, unambitious person? _____

The test takes 17 minutes, transcribing 2 hours, watching 17 minutes.

In less than 3 hours, conversation is tested, and corrected.

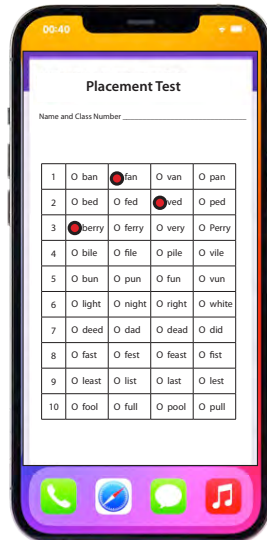
1. Your **listening** and **pronunciation** improve. Of course.
2. You also hear your partners' mistakes, and how your **better partners** did it better.
3. Your **vocabulary** improves because you notice when you could have used new vocabulary.
4. Because homework is writing what you will say, when you correct your speaking, you're also correcting your **writing**.

More speaking = more self-correction = more improvement

The BIG 5: 1 First Day Placement Test

This Test Changes Everything

It changes the mindset, which changes the class from grammar based to ability based. 12 minutes to give, 2 minutes to grade. And more accurate than the 3-hour American SAT test.



It's so easy

1. Students aim their phone at the QR code.
2. Teachers push PLAY.
3. Students enter their answers
4. Google grades hundreds in minutes.

How can you improve their ability if you don't know their ability?

The university entrance exam measures intelligence and attention span for cramming.

This test measures their ABILITY.

This is also a levels test for the first conversation test. Partners are grouped by similar ability. This makes the test fair, and accurate.





















Knowing their ability on the first day **POWERFULLY** changes your mindset.

It's like you're a superhero with magic psychic powers. You know their ability, and you have not even spoken to them yet.

On the first day of class you'll know their:

1. Speaking ability
2. Pronunciation problems
3. Prepositions problems
4. First conversation test partners

That's a pretty good use of 20 minutes.

Pronunciation	Prepositions	Score	1st conversation test partners
74	25	99	1   
70	22	92	
69	21	90	
69	20	89	2   
65	23	88	
66	21	87	
65	20	85	3   
67	16	83	
64	16	80	
60	19	79	4   
58	20	78	
63	13	76	
59	14	73	5   
58	14	72	
53	15	68	
54	13	67	6   
52	12	64	
48	10	58	
49	8	57	7   
47	10	57	
45	9	54	

2 Week 4 Practice Conversation Test

It's a low stress practice test. Everyone who shows up on time makes an A+. You get to know their ability before they start improving, and everyone gets an easy A. Win win.

For the first 3 weeks,
students have real-world conversations
about their major and courses

On week 4,
they have a similar conversation.
It's recorded, and self-corrected.



Students discover and correct the mistakes THEY make when they talk about THEIR major.

1	3:00			
2	3:00			
3	3:30			
4	3:50			
5	4:10			
6	4:30			
7	4:50			
8	5:10			
9	5:30			
10	5:50			

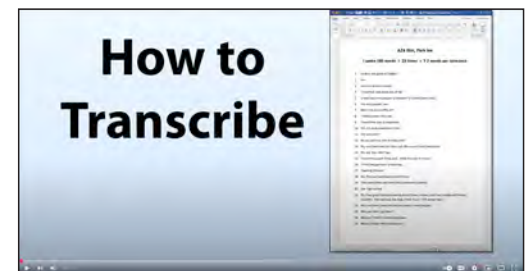
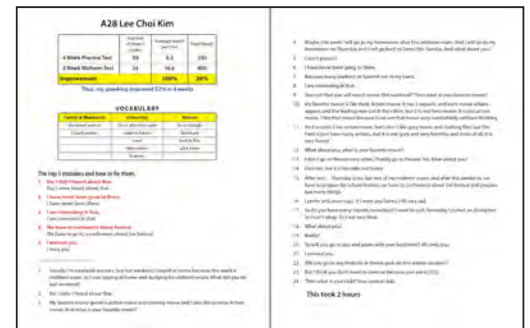
← BEFORE the test

Students are given test times and partners.

AFTER the test →

Students get a link to the MS Word transcript template, and 1-minute instruction video.

Transcribing a 17-min conversation takes 2 hours. Shorter tests take less time.



I don't tell students about transcribing until AFTER the test.

I want stress-free, happy campers testing.

The sooner students have their first conversation test, the better.

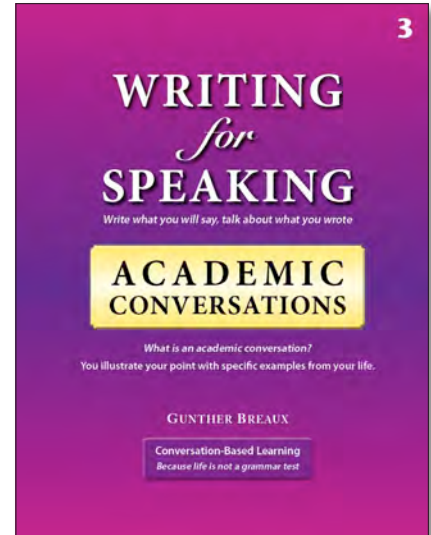
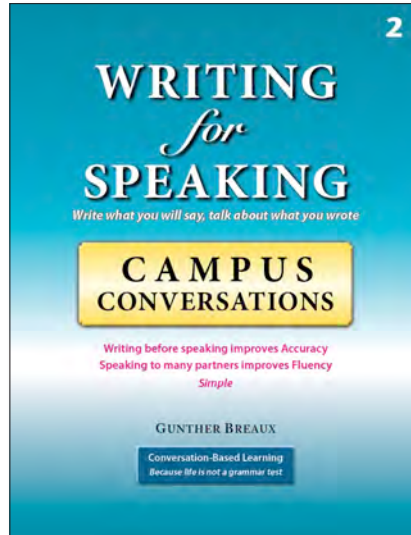
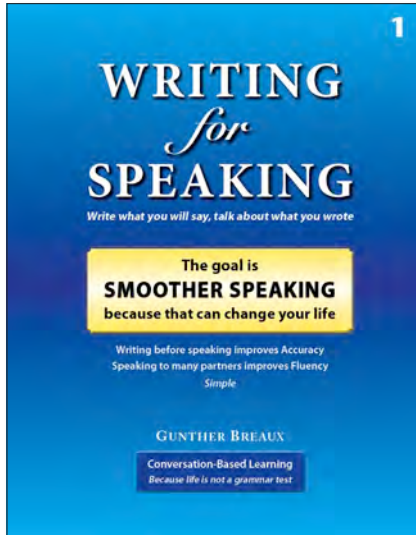
They understand the class and grading sooner, and you show 10 weeks of improvement rather than 6.

3 Homework

Writing for Speaking

Write what you will say, talk about what you wrote

Without writing beforehand, beginning speakers cannot speak for 2 hours.



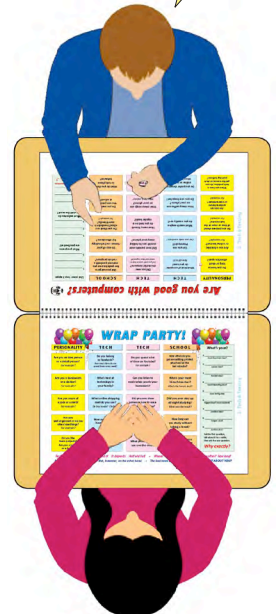
All homework is writing what you will say. There's no read and guess.

You know the answer to every question, because every question's about you.

30 minutes of homework generates 3 hours of conversations. Just add partners

Why does this book have a wire spine?

It's made for pair conversations.



Writing before speaking enables students to speak, and motivates them to speak. They wrote it, they want to use it. There's no pulling teeth to get them to speak.

4 The Class: Speed Dating Pair Conversations

**Everybody's speaking half the time,
half the time your partner's a better speaker**

Many partners improve fluency, better partners improve accuracy,
and every partner brings new pronunciation, vocabulary, questions and answers



Students walk in, find their seat and their partner on the big board, and sit.
The teacher yells: *What did you do last weekend? SPEAK! And off they go.*

When classmates meet for the first time, they introducing themselves
and exchange basic information, and then transition into the assigned topic.



Say, why does the book have a wire spine? Because it's a pair conversation book.

The bigger the class the better

More partners = more repetition = more fluency = more improvement

5 First Conversation Test

3 students of similar ability have a 17-minute conversation

Record it with your phone, and transcribe just what you said.



While transcribing, you **hear, type and read** every mistake you made. In addition, your transcript shows:

- 1 How many words you spoke
- 2 How many times you spoke
- 3 Average words per turn
- 4 Vocabulary underlined and listed
- 5 Mistakes are highlighted
- 6 Top 5 Mistakes are corrected

1
2
3

I spoke 400 words ÷ 36 times = 11.1 words per turn

VOCABULARY		
PERSONALITY	EDUCATION	TECHNOLOGY
party animal	idea person	tech savvy
couch potato	brainiac	nerd
early bird	slacker	
suffer in silence	procrastinate	
	early bird	

The top 5 mistakes I will fix are:

1. I have four families. 6
There are four in my family.
2. I'm live in Seoul
I live in Seoul.
3. Have you ever been to abroad?
Have you ever traveled abroad?
4. After class I go to home.
After class I'll go home.
5. My father she works out of town a lot.
My father works out of town a lot

1. I'm like you. I have four families. Where do you live?
2. I'm live in Seoul. Where is your hometown? 5
3. My hometown is Yeosu. My grandfather was a fisherman. Father's father. Funny. On my mother's side of family they are allergic to fish.
4. Yes, I'm a freshman.
5. Yes, I joined a club. But, I don't know the name in English. Something like "Loner's Club"
6. In the club just what I like doing what I like is OK.
7. Yes, I'm a morning person.
8. Yes I just went OT and registration OT.
9. That's all I went.
10. I'm couch potato too. 4
11. When I don't go to school, when I'm not in a school, I'm usually at home.

12. So, when I'm in home, I just resting. Usually I don't drink too much.
13. What's what?
14. Oh. Wow. Have you ever been to abroad?
15. I went to Osaka Universal Studios last winter vacation. It was awesome. I went with my family and we also visit my aunt who lives in Japan. I love take a trip.
16. My parents are half and half. My mother is strict and my mother is lenient. What about you?
17. Oh. I recently registered a gym. Before I jogging. I'm kind of loner.
18. So I go to gym to lose my weight. Maybe a little.
19. Are you good at running?
20. What about you?
21. I'm not outdoor person.
22. No, that's not that hard exercising.
23. I'm not good at exercising. I just very like watching baseball.
24. I don't know.
25. After class I go to home.
26. In economics, there are two soccer clubs. Ah, in business department, there are two soccer clubs.
27. But I think they are more drinking club than sports club.
28. One is not that good at soccer just enjoying soccer.
29. And another is very good at soccer.
30. I want to be party animal, but I have no money. What about you?
31. I usually hang out near Hongdae on the weekends.
32. These days I need to catch up on my studies because I fall behind.
33. I'm expecting this weekend. I will get some quality time with my parents. My father she works out of town a lot.
34. Were you happy with your presentation?
35. I did a lot of presentations last semester, so I pretty much knew how to do it. I made many bloopers. I spent hours fixing bloopers. What about you?
36. What will your next presentation be on?

I did all this in 2 hours ←

Total Words

695

668

643

582

564

544

521

509

453

446

420

398

367

345

321

288

267

245

180

167

149

And! How many words you speak on the first test determines your partners for the second test.

Wow. The 3 best speakers will test together, and the 3 least speakers. This make the test fair and accurate.

This is extensive, personal feedback and self-correction. In 2 hours.

More speaking = more mistakes = more self-correction = more improvement

Second Conversation Test

The second test gives your Improvement.

The instructions are simple: *Do it again, better, with new partners.*



B20 Kim, Me-lee

	Average words per turn	Total words I spoke
4 Week Practice Test	8.6	400
8 Week Midterm Test	15.5	480
Improvement	80%	20%

1

2

Thus, my speaking improved 50% this semester. 3

VOCABULARY

ROMANCE	PART-TIME JOB	FREE TIME
love at first sight	workaholic	weekend warrior
high maintenance	cash poor	couch potato
ghost	flunky	spontaneous
pretty boy	materialistic	social butterfly
henpecked		

The top 5 mistakes and how to fix them.

- No, I didn't heard about that.
No, I didn't hear about that.
- I have never been gone to there.
I've never been there.
- I am interesting in that.
I am interested in that major.
- What is your best favorite movie?
What is your favorite movie?
- Will you go to a festival or them park on this winter vacation?
Will you go to any festivals or theme park this winter vacation?

- Usually I'm weekend warriors, but last weekend I stayed at home because this week is midterm exam, so I was staying at home and studying for midterm exam. What did you do last weekend?
- No, I didn't heard about that.
- Last weekend I was couch potato. What about you?
- I don't like gory films. I like superhero movies, like the Avengers and Ironman.

The second test transcript has the same data as the first test. Plus:

- 80% Average Words increased**
Longer speaking is smoother speaking
- 20% Total words increased**
This means shorter and fewer pauses
- 50% Thus, Speaking improved**

All this information and feedback, in only 2 hours

Even though they spoke more, transcribing takes the same amount of time, or less.

This is their second time transcribing, they are experienced.

Is this improvement real?

Absolutely.

Each student had about **12 hours** of classroom conversations, and **4 hours** of transcribing and self-correcting.

Listening, Pronunciation and **Vocabulary** have also certainly improved,

Her speaking improved 50%, and her transcript proves it.

Grading the Test

This is a test, like any other test. It has different grading criteria. That's all.

Raw scores		Converted scores					Grade 100%	
Basic Ability	Total Words	Ability 20%	Total words 20%	Vocabulary 20%	My Top 5 mistakes 10%	Transcript 30%		
85	812	18	20	20	10	30	98	A
90	711	19	18	18	10	30	95	
95	706	20	19	20	10	25	94	
85	693	19	17	19	10	25	90	
86	572	19	14	20	10	25	88	
79	645	17	16	18	10	25	86	B
76	460	19	12	20	10	25	86	
78	447	20	11	14	10	30	85	
86	525	19	13	10	10	30	82	
79	432	18	11	15	10	25	79	
86	557	17	14	12	10	25	78	C
83	540	18	14	14	10	20	76	
73	451	16	14	15	10	20	75	
70	443	14	11	14	10	25	74	
90	503	17	13	7	10	25	72	
73	433	17	11	12	10	20	70	D
78	433	15	11	11	5	25	67	
69	324	16	8	11	10	20	65	
83	373	15	9	10	5	25	64	
81	337	17	8	10	5	20	60	
71	305	15	8	12	0	22	57	F
70	397	15	10	8	5	15	53	
69	281	15	7	10	0	20	52	
70	266	15	8	5	0	20	48	

- 1. The Basic Ability**, holistic speaking score is something that any teacher, new or non-native, can give.
- 2. Total words** is objective, accurate and easily counted. And it prompts students to speak more.
- 3. Vocabulary** is also easily counted, and it's a good indicator of preparation, skill, and improvement.
- 4. Finding their own Top 5 Mistakes** shifts learning from teacher-talking to self-correction.
- 5. Transcripts** are important.

They provide grading **data**, show **ability** and **improvement**, and force hours of **self-correction**.

Total Words is an accurate measure of their ability, so it's used in grading the test.

Average Words is not an accurate measure of ability, so it's not used in grading the test.

However, **Average Words** is an excellent measure of improvement, and so it's used to measure improvement.

3 Tests are Best, 3 Partners are Best

Week 4



THE FIRST TEST gets them speaking

And gives their ability before they start improving too much.

It's a low-stress, practice test.

Everybody who shows up on time makes an A+.

Week 8



THE SECOND TEST gets them speaking longer and smoother

They must use *because, for example,* and *new vocabulary.*

This forces them to prepare, and results in **40% improvement** over the first test.

Week 14



THE THIRD TEST gets them speaking longer and academically

At least once, they must use *first, second, third* and *specific examples.*

This forces more preparation which results in **60% improvement** over the first test.

The syllabus, the timing of the tests, and the test criteria are structured for 60% improvement. Improvement is baked in. Automatic. Inevitable.

3 Partners are perfect

With pairs, each student has more speaking time, but a deadbeat adversely affects their partner's performance.

A four person test is just too many and unnecessary. I have NEVER tested four.

Three is perfect. Everyone has sufficient speaking time, and there's more real-world interaction.

3 Tests are 50% better than 2

50% more self-correction With 3 tests, students transcribe and self-correct for 6 hours, rather than 4.

50% more improvement You're measuring 10 weeks of improvement instead of 6.

They're more accurate The average of 3 tests is more accurate than 2.

Longer tests are best 15 - 17 minutes. With shorter tests, some students memorize a long passage, and some groups memorize a short conversation.

Longer tests are easier to grade, more accurate, and have wider grade spread.

The Big Picture

Conversation tests



Result in conversation classes



Which greatly increases fluency on job interviews



Detail: The Engine of Fluency is Repetition

It works like this:

On the first day, she came into class with a broken arm.

Her first partner asked, *What happened?*

Her next six partners asked, *What happened?*

By the end of class, she was pretty good at explaining how she broke her arm.

In a real conversation class, you're not role playing about ordering a steak.

You get better at answering personally-relevant questions.

Telling 10 or 20 partners why you chose your major is pretty good preparation for your conversation test.

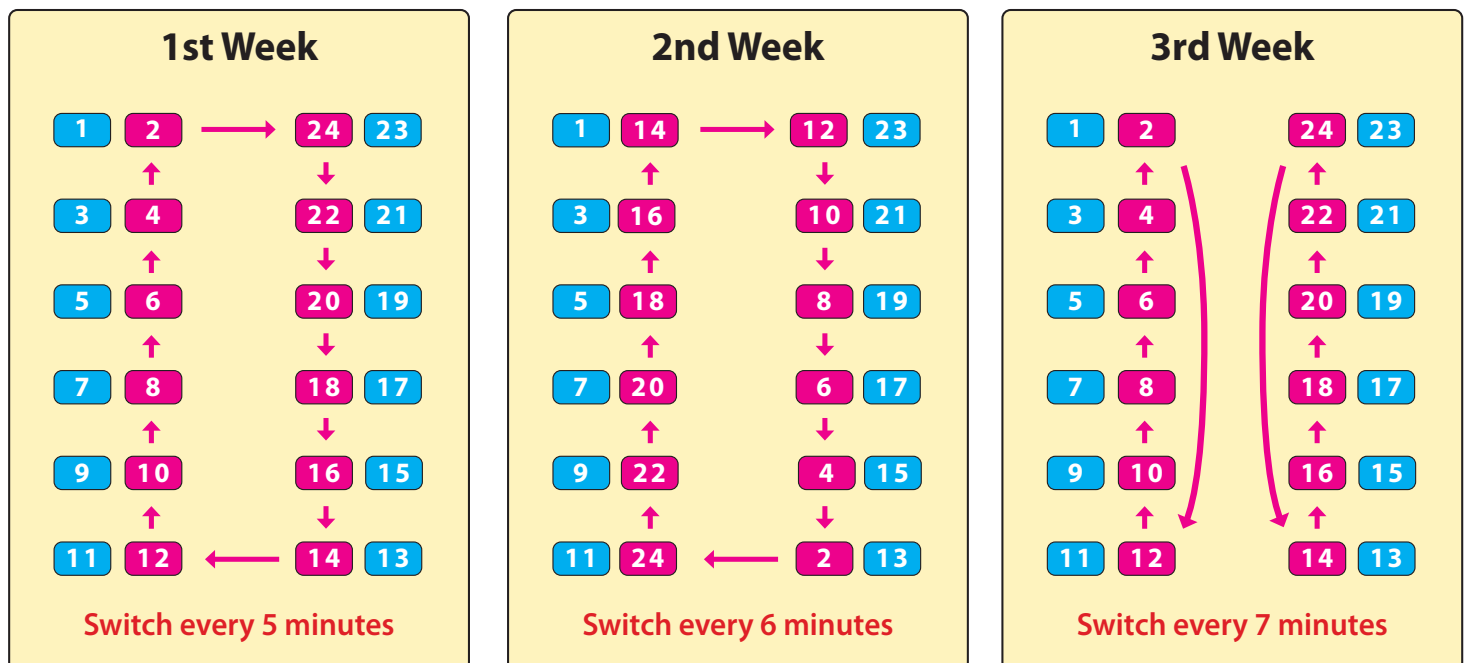
And for life.



Double speaking ability in 6 hours

In the first 3 weeks, you'll will meet and introduce yourself to 23 classmates.

Many are total strangers. You'll talk about your major, courses and club. And family and hobby.



After 3 weeks, and 23 partners, their speaking ability has dramatically improved. In 6 hours. They're no longer scared of English. They no longer hate English. They're interested in speaking English.

The look forward to talking more about themselves in the next class.

This is not goofing off. This is systematic improvement while talking about your major.

Results

On the last day of class:

You know their ability

These are the results of 3 conversation tests, with 6 different partners.

Average of 3 tests	
Total words spoken	Words per minute
682	40
649	38
621	37
582	34
569	33
552	32
549	32
523	31
481	28
451	27
427	25
423	25
360	21
341	20
314	18
291	17
254	15
225	13
196	12
184	11
172	10

You have wide-spread grades

Many freshmen are so lazy about English homework that you get very wide spread grades

Homework	Conversation Tests	Attendance	Final grade
40%	40%	20%	100%
39	39	20	98 A+
38	38	20	96 A+
39	36	20	95 A+
37	35	20	92 A
38	33	20	91 A
36	33	20	89 B+
36	32	20	88 B+
33	32	20	85 B+
34	29	20	83 B
33	29	20	82 B
32	28	18	78 C+
29	29	20	78 C+
35	22	20	77 C+
28	27	20	75 C
28	27	20	75 C
27	27	18	72 C
25	29	18	72 C
24	24	17	65 D
22	17	16	55 F
12	17	16	45 F
10	15	10	35 F

You can prove they improved

	Average words per utterance	Total words I spoke
4 week test	11.1	400
8 week test	16.4	450
14 week test	22.2	480
Improvement	100%	20%

Above are the typical results of over 1500 freshmen in 10 years of conversation classes.

You can confidently let them speak on the first day of class, because you know their speaking will improve.

Questions?

THE CLASS

- 1 **What if students are low-level speakers? Can they handle this?**
Yes. Absolutely. They write what they will say, *My father is a teacher* and then say it in class. Speaking ability is not improved by listening to a teacher talk about the English language.
- 2 **What if they don't do the homework?**
They make an **F**. This is a required course. Homework takes 30 minutes, and they are writing about themselves. Simple. They do homework in other classes. *What's the problem?*
- 3 **What about instructions?**
Pre-class instructions and post-class feedback are sent by email or uploaded on the website. If students can read and hear it at home, teachers shouldn't say it in class.
- 4 **What does the teacher do in class?**
As little as possible. If the teacher is talking, students are not. Students improve when *students* are talking. This is a new world with new technology. Input at home, output in class. Simple.
- 5 **Are big classes really better?**
Absolutely. More partners = more variety = more repetition = more improvement. Big classes have more partners of similar ability. Big classes have more energy.

THE TEST

- 1 **Is transcribing difficult?**
No. Low-level speakers speak at a low level. They're transcribing what THEY said. *I'm born in Seoul*. They're not transcribing the **BBC News**.
- 2 **How long does it take to transcribe?**
It takes everybody about two hours. There is a YIN and YANG. The better speakers speak more and have more transcribing ability. The lesser speakers speak less, and have less to transcribe.
- 3 **What if students aren't good at MS Word?**
They soon will be. MS Word is an academic, and real-world skill. They will not get a job without it. If they have to learn it in my class, they will. Besides, they're given a template, they just type. *Simple*.
- 4 **What about feedback and error correction?**
Students hear and read their own mistakes when they transcribe, and then fix their top 5 mistakes. If they can tie their own shoes, they can find their own mistakes: *When I was a middle school*.
- 5 **Does speaking really improve 60%?**
Yes. That's what happens when beginning speakers have 30 hours of conversations. In fact, for most freshmen, saying two sentences in a row is 100% improvement.