

Presenting an argument

- 1 **3.19** Read and listen to the presentation. What is the teacher's main argument? What expressions does the teacher use to keep the attention of her audience?



I wonder how many of you are learning, or have learned a foreign language? Do you know what the best thing is that you can do to learn a language efficiently? Let me tell you: it's living, socializing and working in the country where the language is spoken. I'll explain in more detail, starting with our first key factor to successful language learning; 'living'. You are much more likely to learn and use a foreign language in a real situation, where you'll be asked questions, where you'll want information, and where you'll have to make decisions about day to day living. To put it another way, if you want to survive in foreign place, you're going to have to learn how to communicate in the local language. So that's 'living', now to 'socializing'. Socializing in a foreign language is another important factor in learning it efficiently. Here's the point I want to make: if you socialize with local people and make friends, you are going to have more opportunities to familiarize yourself with the culture and colloquial language. Let me give you an example. A foreign friend of mine always loved the expression 'it's raining cats and dogs' to talk about heavy rain. But when he started chatting with English people, he was surprised to learn that they never really used this expression. So, once he was in a situation where he needed to use English socially, he found what language was current and appropriate. And there's a third factor, something we all love: working ...

- 2 Read the *Look out!* box and then read the presentation again. Find an example of each rhetorical device in the text.

LOOK OUT!

Rhetorical devices

Paraphrasing is a way of making sure that the listener understands key points. It gives the listener an opportunity to hear the message again and in a different way, and helps them to understand and remember it more easily.

Exemplification and anecdotes can give the listener a better description of the situation. Anecdotes may be amusing and a good way of keeping the listener's attention.

Sequencing is a way of guiding the listener through the main points. If the listener can understand the structure of the presentation, they are better able to follow the key points and ideas.

- 3 Complete the table with the expressions in the box.

or in other words That reminds me about the time ...
and finally a good example of this
Let me illustrate that point
There are three main points that I'd like to make

Paraphrasing
1 _____
Exemplification and anecdotes
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
Sequencing
5 _____
6 _____

- 4 **3.20** Listen to another presentation. Think of a title for the presentation. What is the speaker's main argument?
- 5 **3.20** Listen to the presentation again and number the sentences (a–f) in the order that you hear them.
- a ☐ Have you heard the old expression that practice makes perfect?
- b ☐ Let me give you an example.
- c ☐ I'm going to share a secret with you.
- d ☐ To put it another way.
- e ☐ Allow me to explain.
- f ☐ Basically there are three points I want to make.
- 6 Look back at the units in your Student's book and choose a topic that you feel strongly about. Prepare a main argument and supporting ideas. Prepare a presentation using rhetorical devices.

Speaking tip

When giving a presentation, always make eye contact with your audience. People are more likely to pay attention if you are looking at them. Also, try to project your voice to the back of the room so that everyone can hear you clearly. If you speak too quietly, people will quickly lose interest.

- 7 Read the *Speaking tip* and give your presentation to the class.
- 8 When you have heard all the presentations, decide which one was the most interesting? Which presentation got your attention the most, and why?

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