

Giving a presentation

- 1  **3.21** Read and listen to Emma's presentation. Is she an environmentalist?



Emma The first thing I'd like to say is that I don't agree with the statement that environmentalism is a waste of time. I don't think it's true that environmentalists are wasting their time. All human life depends on nature and on the environment. Environmentalists simply want to save the natural world because people everywhere need the natural world to survive.

One reason environmentalists want to save endangered plants and animals is because we need them for food. Bees, for example, not only make honey, but they also help to, er, they make it so plants can grow – the plants ... the plants we grow for food – if you understand what I mean.

Other people are environmentalists because they think that plants and animals are beautiful and that humans have the responsibility to care for them. They argue that it is natural for humans to take care of the world around them. I agree with this view.

Let me see ... Uh, now, as far as the arguments against environmentalism are concerned, it is sometimes argued that humans are the most important creatures on Earth, and that we have a right to use the Earth's resources as we please. However, as I said earlier, we all depend on the natural world for life. If we allow the bees to die, we will not be able to grow food. So we can dismiss this argument out of hand.

To summarize then, I don't believe environmentalists are wasting their time. On the contrary, I think taking care of the environment must be one of the most important things a person can do.

- 2 Read the presentation again. Complete the expressions from the presentation.

- 1 Changing the subject: As _____ the arguments against environmentalism are concerned ...
- 2 Acknowledging an opposing view: It _____ that ...
- 3 Dismissing an opposing view: We can _____ out of hand
- 4 Referring to something said earlier: _____ earlier ...

Speaking tip

Giving a presentation

- 1 Present your strongest argument first.
- 2 Acknowledge the opposing view and then give a counter-argument or restate your own opinion.
- 3 When you are thinking what to say next, use fillers.
- 4 When you don't know the English for something, try to paraphrase.
- 5 Look at the examiner and speak loudly and clearly. Try to sound confident.

- 3  **3.22** Read the *Speaking tip* and the task below. Then listen to the student doing the task and answer the questions.

- 1 To what extent does the speaker follow the advice?
- 2 Which arguments do you find the most persuasive? Why?

'To be an environmentalist is a waste of time.' Do you agree or disagree? Present your opinion, giving arguments to support your view. Speak for a maximum of three minutes.

- 4 Add to the table below the phrases the speaker in exercise 1 used for structuring her presentation.

Changing the subject

I'll now turn to ...

I'd like now to deal with ...

As far as the arguments against environmentalism are concerned

1 _____

Acknowledging the opposing view

I freely admit that ...

Others take a different view.

It is sometimes argued that

2 _____

Dismissing an opposing view

I don't accept there's any merit in the argument that ...

I entirely reject the notion that ...

We can dismiss this argument out of hand.

3 _____

Referring to something said earlier

Returning to (the issue of ... / the point about ...)

To restate the main argument

As I said earlier ...

4 _____

- 5 Work in pairs. Choose one of the statements below. Decide if you agree or disagree and brainstorm two or three additional arguments to support your opinion. Include at least one opposing argument. Make notes.
- a To reduce air pollution, all countries should enforce days when driving is forbidden.
 - b Every country should reduce spending on the military and increase spending to save the environment.
 - c Humans are the biggest threat to the Earth's survival.
- 6 Give your presentation to the class. Speak for a maximum of three minutes. Follow the advice in the *Speaking tip* and use some of the phrases in exercise 4.