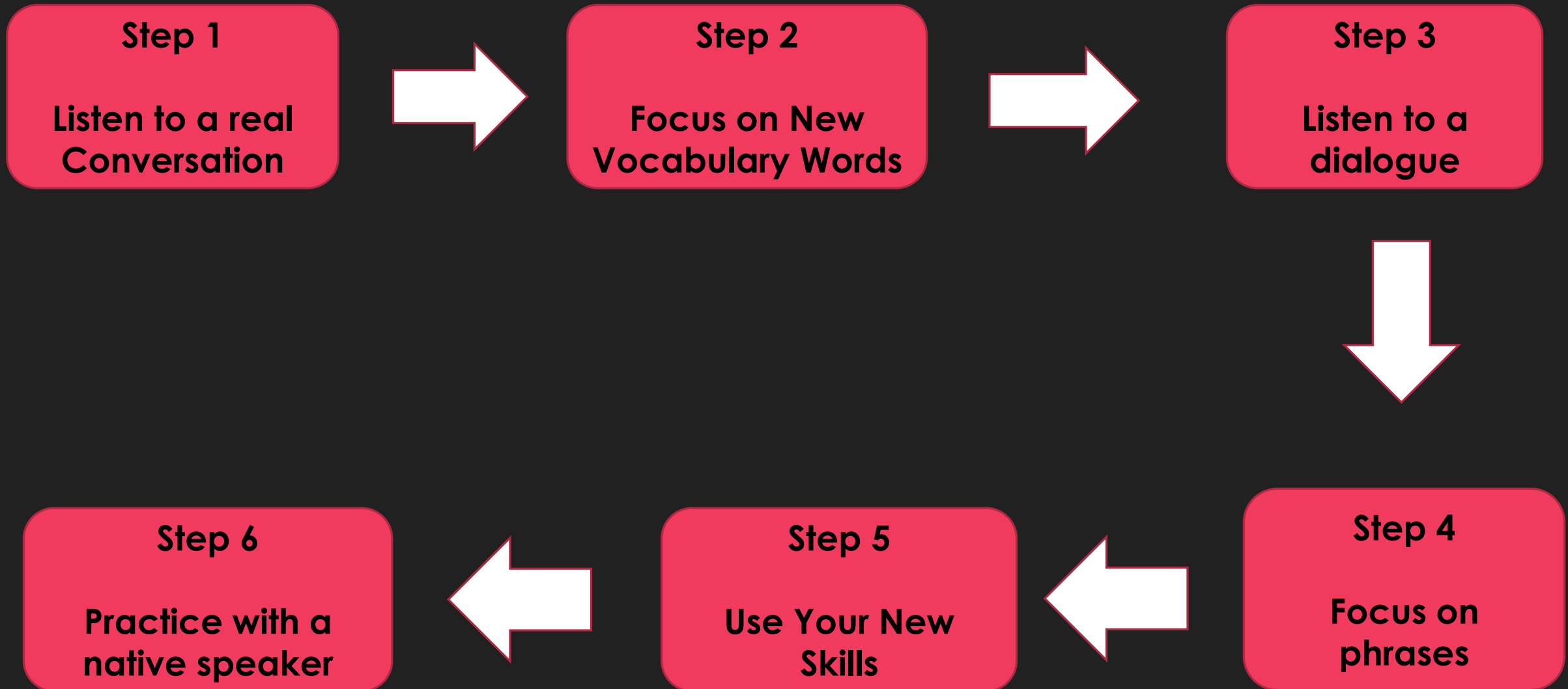




How to Give a Speech in American Culture

A Vocabulary Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: Are You Afraid of Public Speaking?



Please listen to Audio Step 1 –Are You Afraid of Public Speaking?

Do you like to give speeches? Are you afraid of public speaking? Listen to this conversation about public speaking in the US.

Please view Transcript Step 1 -Are You Afraid of Public Speaking?

Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**Turning
point**

Concrete

Genuine

**To be
petrified**

**To have the
spotlight on
you**

**To speak
from the
heart**

**To be
petrified**

Adjective



To be extremely scared, afraid of something

I am petrified of public speaking and spiders.

Turning point

Expression



A time when things start to change and a decision or event leads you down a new path

The day that I met my husband was a turning point in my life.

To have the
spotlight on
you

Idiom



To be the focus of attention in a large group of people

I don't like to have the spotlight on me so I avoid public speaking.

Concrete

Adjective



Specific, real, tangible, not theoretical or abstract

When you give a speech in the US, be sure to provide concrete examples and stories.

Genuine

Adjective



Real, authentic, truthful, not fake

The politician seemed genuine when he asked the kids about their school.

To speak
from the
heart

Expression



To speak genuinely and truthfully

*When you give a speech, the audience will be more
intrigued if you speak from the heart.*

Culture Bonus! How to Give a Speech in the US

- Use a specific structure
- Give concrete examples
- Use stories
- Be authentic and genuine, connect with your audience
- Involve the audience



Read More!

- Is Your Presentation Ready for an American Audience?
- Presenting in English: What About Culture?
- Cross-cultural Presentations- Tips



Step 3: Break a Leg!

Listen to this conversation between two friends before one of them gives a big speech.

Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4- Break a Leg



Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Break a Leg

- “I am petrified”
- “I don’t like having the spotlight on me.”
- “...there was a turning point.”
- “Give them concrete examples.”
- “Be genuine.”
- “Speak from the heart.”

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

Click on the file “Say It Another Way”

Step 5: Use Your New Skills

Turning point

Concrete

**To have the
spotlight on
you**

Genuine

**To be
petrified**

**To speak from
the heart**

A: So you have your speech tonight, right?

B: Yes and I am __1__(scared)

A: Oh don't worry. Just be __2__ (honest)
and people will love you. You have to speak
from the __3__ (speak truthfully)

B: Ok I will try but I don't like __4__ (to be
the center of attention)

Answers to Quiz Step 5

- 1- petrified
- 2- genuine
- 3- heart
- 4- having the spotlight on me

Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

To have the spotlight on you



Concrete



To speak from the heart



To be petrified



Turning point



Genuine

Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Are you **petrified** of public speaking? Why or why not? How do you feel about **having the spotlight on you?** When was the last time you had to speak in public and how did it go?
- If you are no longer petrified of public speaking but you used to be, when was the **turning point** for you?

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student)* Are you giving a speech tonight?

B: Yes and I am _____ (petrified)! I hate _____ (having the spotlight on me).

A: *Oh come on. You'll be fine. I used to feel the same way and then _____ (I had a turning point).*

B: Why? What changed?

A: *I started to focus more on providing value and actually helping the audience understand something. I focused less on myself and my speeches became much smoother.*

Bonus Conversation 1 Answers

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) Are you giving a speech tonight?*

B: Yes and I am terrified! I hate being the center of attention.

A: *Oh come on. You'll be fine. I used to feel the same way and then things changed.*

B: Why? What changed?

A: *I started to focus more on providing value and actually helping the audience understand something. I focused less on myself and my speeches became much smoother.*

Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Do you agree that it's a good strategy to **speak from the heart** when you give a speech? If you had to give a speech and **speak from the heart**, what topic would you choose to speak about? What would you teach the audience? What **concrete** examples would you give in this speech to communicate your point?
- Have you ever listened to a speech where you didn't feel that the speaker was being **genuine**? Give an example. How did the speech make you feel?

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) You're giving a speech tonight on animal rights, right?

B: Yes

A: Great. I know that topic is important to you so make sure you _____ (speak from the heart). Give them _____ (concrete) examples and stories.

B: Yeah that is my plan. I have plenty to say and I want the audience to feel how I feel. I want it to be totally _____ (genuine)

Bonus Conversation 2 Answer

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) You're giving a speech tonight on animal rights, right?*

B: Yes

A: *Great. I know that topic is important to you so make sure you speak honestly. Give them specific examples and stories.*

B: Yeah that is my plan. I have plenty to say and I want the audience to feel how I feel. I want it to be totally authentic.

Practice with a Native Continued

- Do students (middle school, high school, college) in your country have to deliver speeches and presentations frequently in their classes? If not, why do you think that this isn't a big part of the curriculum? Should it be?
- Based on what you learned about giving a speech from Audio 1, please compare and contrast the qualities of a good speech in your country and the US. What are the main differences and similarities? Consider audience participation, personal stories, specific structure, ways of building an argument, etc.
- What do you think are the common mistakes that professionals from your country make in terms of presentation style when they make a speech in the US if they don't understand the different presentation styles in the two different countries?

Practice with a Native Continued

- Tell a story about a time when you gave a great speech. How did it feel? What was the topic? How did you know that the audience loved it?
- Tell a story about a time when you gave a bad speech. What went wrong? What could you have done differently?

Credits

- To be petrified: <http://bit.ly/UpFfyH>
- Turning point: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/angeloangelo/4423502365>
- To have the spotlight on you: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tinto/13818507913>
- Concrete: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wonderlane/8576024933>
- Genuine: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mdgovpics/8591887829>
- To speak from the heart: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/congres-in-beeld/8558606440>
- Microphones: <http://bit.ly/1oarQXs>
- Speech steps 3 and 4 <http://bit.ly/1rysYXf>
- Cover photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nanpalmero/10443500425/in/faves-95934042@N00/>