**Linguaskill Lesson Plans**

**Speaking Lesson 5**

**Description**

The topic of this lesson is social media. Practice of vocabulary related to social media is used to give guidance on completing a Part 4 task in the Linguaskill Speaking Test.

**Teacher’s Notes**

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| **Aims of the lesson** | * to present and practise vocabulary for talking about social media * to raise awareness of the requirements of the Part 4 Speaking tasks * to develop techniques and strategies for this task type based on practice of a sample task. |
| **Time required** | 45-50 minutes |
| **Level** | Suitable for B2-C2 |
| **Materials required** | * Student’s Worksheet 1: Linguaskill Speaking Part 4 – sample task (social media) * Student’s Worksheet 2: Speaking Part 4 – sample response (social media) |

**Procedure**

1. Either draw or stick pictures of social media symbols on the board (i.e. X, Instagram, Facebook, etc.). Elicit the term *social media* and ask learners to put up their hands if they use social media.
2. Ask learners to stand up and come to the front of the class. Write the number 1 on the left of the board, and number 5 on the right. Tell learners 1 means they think social media is great, and 5 means they think it is terrible. Ask learners stand next to the board in a position that best reflects their opinion. They can stand anywhere between the two numbers.

Divide the line of learners into half. You may need to encourage some learners in the middle to move to the left or the right. Tell all the learners on the left of the line to sit together, and all the learners on the right to sit in another group. With their group, learners should brainstorm reasons why social media is great or terrible.

1. Now ask learners to find a partner from the other group. In pairs, learners compare their ideas and try to convince their partner that they are right. Stop the debate after two or three minutes and ask learners to sit back down. In feedback, ask who had the most persuasive argument.
2. Tell learners that social media is the topic of a sample Linguaskill Speaking Part 4 task which they are going to practise in this lesson. Give learners a copy of **Student’s** **Worksheet 1** which has the full sample task. Ask them to read through it, and then check understanding of the task and the topic with the following questions:

* How much preparation time do candidates have? *40 seconds*
* Can they take notes? *Yes*
* How long do they need to speak for? *90 seconds*
* Do they need to reach a conclusion? *Yes. It is important that they make a concluding comment withing the 90 seconds time allowed.*
* Do they need to give their own opinion or remain neutral? *They need to give their own opinion, but they also need to consider the opposite opinion.*
* Is the statement in the task in favour of or against social media? *Against*
* What aspect of social media does it focus on? *Relationships between people*

1. Now give learners a copy of **Student’s** **Worksheet 2**. Tell them that it has the transcript of a candidate’s response to this task. Learners read the transcript and decide which words are missing. They then put these expressions into the table below. In feedback, check answers and discuss any alternative answers learners gave. Discuss the function of the expressions, i.e. considering arguments for or against a statement; justifying opinions; reaching a conclusion. Tell learners that building up their range of expressions which perform these functions is important preparation for this part of the test.
2. Tell learners they will now practise the task. Ask them to look again at **Student’s** **Worksheet 1** and give them 40 seconds to make notes. Then say *Please begin speaking now.* You can either ask all learners to speak at the same time, using low voices, or to take turns speaking to a partner. The partner can give feedback on how well they did. Monitor while learners are speaking and give feedback on task performance and examples of functional expressions used. You can also note errors for delayed error correction.
3. Finish the lesson by asking learners to discuss what they think would happen if all social media ended tomorrow.

**Student’s Worksheet 1**

**Linguaskill Speaking Part 4 – sample task**

**This is an example task from Part 4 of the Linguaskill Speaking test.**

**Read the task. When you have finished reading, your teacher will ask you some questions.**

First you will read a statement. Then you will have 40 seconds to prepare what you are going to say. You will then have 90 seconds to talk about the statement.

You can take notes while you prepare. Please speak for all the time you have.

*Instead of bringing people together, social media is pushing people apart.*

*You should:*

*• consider arguments both* ***for*** *and* ***against*** *this statement*

*• reach a conclusion, providing reasons to support your final argument.*

**Student’s Worksheet 2**

**Speaking Part 4 – sample response**

**Read the transcript of how one candidate answered the question on Worksheet 1.**

**Write in the missing words.**

It is often **1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that social media is the best way for people to keep in touch with each other and share their opinions, and **2.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is certainly some truth in that. Without social media, we’d be unable to interact with so many people all over the world, **3.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instance, so it certainly does bring people together, like the statement says. **4.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there is another side to social media which needs to be considered. While some people are completely in favour of it, **5.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can see how it may actually damage relationships. Rather than meeting up with someone, or calling them for a chat or to discuss an issue, people just send quick messages or post comments online, and these require very little effort or thought. **6.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is more, it’s difficult to say exactly what you mean in a short message. **7.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the comments people write can easily be misinterpreted, they may actually push people apart and create problems with relationships. All **8.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all, I can see both advantages and disadvantages with social media. **9.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the problems it can cause, it is here to stay, so to my **10.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the most important thing is to learn how to use it properly.

**KEY**

It is often **1.** **said** that social media is the best way for people to keep in touch with each other and share their opinions, and **2.** **there** is certainly some truth in that. Without social media, we’d be unable to interact with so many people all over the world, **3.** **for** instance, so it certainly does bring people together, like the statement says. **4.** **However,** there is another side to social media which needs to be considered. While some people are completely in favour of it, **5.** **others** can see how it may actually damage relationships. Rather than meeting up with someone, or calling them for a chat or to discuss an issue, people just send quick messages or post comments online, and these require very little effort or thought. **6.** **What**is more, it’s difficult to say exactly what you mean in a short message. **7.** **Given** that the comments people write can easily be misinterpreted, they may actually push people apart and create problems with relationships. All **8.** **in** all, I can see both advantages and disadvantages with social media. **9.** **Despite** the problems it can cause, it is here to stay, so to my **10.** **mind** the most important thing is to learn how to use it properly.

**Note:** accept alternative answers. For example:

**1.** it is often said > it is often thought

**4.** However > Nevertheless

**7.** Given that > Knowing that / Considering that