

Speaking Competition for grades 7 and 8

Webinar
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This webinar will cover

Registration process

The structure of the competition

Tips for preparing students (yellow slides)

Speech mechanics

Preparing for impromptu speeches

Q&A

Sharing the webinar slides

The aim and the Topics

The main aim of the EATE Open 2026 **speaking competition** is to encourage students in grades 7-8 who have a good command of English to further develop their language skills and to perform confidently and engagingly in English.

Another goal is to guide students to **research** the selected topic, **read** and **watch** various materials, and connect information found on different aspects of the topic into a coherent whole.

For topics of the prepared speeches, see eate.ee

Speaking competition - registration

Pre-Registration Deadline 20 February

Submit school name and number of participants.

Final Registration Deadline 20 March

Submit speakers' names and speech titles.

The registration link will be sent only to those who have pre-registered.

Competition Day 7 April at 13:00, Tallinn French School, Hariduse 8 (primary school building)

Only fully registered speakers may compete.

Speaking Competition - structure, round 1

The speech contest consists of **two rounds**.

Round 1: A prepared speech on a previously announced and prepared topic. (See eate.ee for speech topics)

Length: 3 minutes, followed by questions from the jury

The speech should be mostly delivered from memory.

Small note cards may be used.

Speaking Competition - structure, round 2

Round 2: Impromptu Speech, a **2-minute** speech prepared on-site on a randomly drawn topic.

Preparation time: 15 minutes

The only permitted aids in the preparation room are an English explanatory dictionary, paper, and a pen.

Notes may be used during the delivery, no questions will follow the impromptu speech.

Speaking competition – rough(!) schedule

13:00 opening

13:15 - 14:05 prepared speeches in heats (8 speeches, 3+3 minutes - 48 min in total)

14:10 - 14:25 15-minute break

14:25- 15:05 impromptu speeches (15min + 8 speeches x 3 minutes - 39 min in total)

Preparing students

3 types of speeches

1. It wasn't good
2. It was good, but I remember nothing
3. It was good and I remember

In writing a speech there are 2 objectives

1. Making a good impression
2. Leaving your audience 1-2 takeaways

Know Your Audience

Think about who will listen to your speech.

Write in a way they will understand and enjoy.

Have One Main Message

Decide what your most important idea is.

Your audience should remember it.

Kennedy and King!

Start with a Strong Opening

Begin with something interesting: a shocking fact, a humorous anecdote, an open question

[NB! Research!]

This keeps people listening.

Organise Your Speech

Make a clear structure:

1. Introduction
2. Main points - chunk them well
3. Conclusion – close the loop and come back to the beginning

Include Examples and Link Ideas Well

Use short stories or facts to explain your ideas.

This helps the audience understand.

Use transitional phrases to bring out important things:

What does this mean? And pause

So here's a lesson... And pause

Keep It Simple

Use short sentences and everyday words.

Don't make it too complicated.

A speech is not an essay – you cannot read complicated parts again

Add a Memorable Line

Include one sentence people will remember.

This helps your message stay in their minds.

NB! Repetition!

Practice Out Loud

Read your speech out loud before the event.

This helps you speak more confidently.

Finish Strong

End by summarising your main idea.

You can also ask your audience to think about something or take action.

You can also finish with a success story.

Research Task

eate.ee: Another goal of the competition is to guide students to research the selected topic, read and watch various materials, and connect information found on different aspects of the topic into a coherent whole.

Find one article from a reliable source that supports your chosen topic.
The article must have an author and a publication date.

Read the article carefully.

This will help you show a wider world view and understand how your topic connects to real life and current issues.

Mechanics

You may use palm cards with key words to help you remember your speech

For the best delivery, it is advised to learn the speech by heart

Length of the prepared speech: 3 minutes

You will hear 1 knock at 2:30, 2 at 3:00, 3 at 3:30 (3 knocks meaning: stop speaking now)

Props are not allowed

NB! Maintain good eye contact with the audience!

Don't Use Language Models

It limits your learning. Writing the speech yourself helps you improve your language, thinking, and communication skills.

It sounds less personal. A speech written by a model may not reflect your real ideas, feelings, or speaking style.

It can affect your confidence. When you don't fully understand or own the words, it is harder to speak naturally and confidently.

A Few More Things

- Think where you stand in the room
- Think how you stand
- Speak loud and clear

Preparing students for impromptu speeches

Pattern: past- present-future

Topic: The world is a smaller place these days.

Pattern: Point, Reason, Example, Point (PREP)

Topic: Real learning doesn't happen in a classroom.

Phil Marsdale: one story / anecdote and 3 supporting points (3-minute speech)

Sample impromptu speaking topics

From the eate.ee website:

- Is it better to read a book or watch the movie adaptation?
- What is the most important skill to learn for the future?
- The benefits and challenges of having a long commute to school.

- LM prompt: generate 10 impromptu speech topics similar to those above and suitable for 14-15-year-old students at B1 level

Thank you

Q&A

For slides provide your email address

[LINK](#)

Sources

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