

CPI1 PAU How to prepare for a conversation based on a text

When preparing for a conversation with your teacher based on the text you have been given, there are a few simple points to bear in mind:

1. In order to speak more confidently, you should **know your text thoroughly**. Read it several times and be sure you understand all the ideas and opinions expressed.
2. Preparing a text to discuss is a good opportunity to **improve your vocabulary**. Be sure to check the definitions of all the words you don't know. **Don't just use a bilingual dictionary to do this; your teacher will ask you to give definitions of some words in English**. The links below will take you to free, online English dictionaries which are designed for learners. Use their definitions when preparing your vocabulary.

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>

<http://www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com/>

3. **Prepare a summary** of the text. Identify the main ideas or facts. If you're not sure how much detail to include, one sentence per paragraph can be a general guide.
4. **Form your own opinion of the text**. Prepare what you are going to say about it. It will make you feel more confident at the beginning of the conversation, as you won't be feeling for your words. Also, think about how the conversation might develop: what is the general topic, and what else is there to say about it ?
5. Finally, remember that **a conversation is a two-way process**, with initiatives coming from both speakers. It is not just a question-answer session. Any ideas that you express on your own initiative will be much appreciated!

Practice : prepare a text for discussion

1. Read the text.
2. Use the online dictionaries to check the meaning of any unknown words. Make sure you can define these words in English.
3. Write a summary of the text.
4. Think of **five questions** to ask other students about the text or a related topic. They can be **factual questions** about the text or **questions of opinion** related to the general subject. NB: don't just ask "What do you think of this text?!"

Class discussion

Compare your summaries, ask and answer each other's vocabulary and discussion questions.