

Speaking Circles

Class - 5

Preface

Speaking Circles

Speak English with Ease

First edition published in 2025

Revised edition - 2026

Get ready to unlock a world of opportunities with our comprehensive Spoken English workbook! Designed for students like you, Speaking Circles is your key to confident communication.

Effective communication is the key to success in academics, profession, and personal life. This workbook aims to empower students with the skills and confidence to express themselves clearly and fluently in English.

Through a range of engaging exercises, activities, and conversations, students will develop their ability to articulate thoughts, opinions, and ideas with clarity and precision.

Join the Speaking Circles community and discover the joy of communicating effectively.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Content Developer

Smt. Kavitha Krishnakumar, Director Sthairya Academy, CELTA

Editorial

Dr. Arti and Team

Design and Technical Support

Smt. R Dharshini Ragamathy, B.Sc., M.A

Ms. N.Niranjani, B.Sc., MBA

Wrapper Design

Ms. Hamsavani Raman and Team

Picture Credits

Art Work by Mr. Vignesh - Staff, DAV Boys School Gopalapuram
(Contestant, Rangotsav 2025-2026)

Photograph by Ms. Falak Nashwa - Student, DAV Girls Gopalapuram
(Contestant, Chitrakala Utsav 2025-2026)

Photograph by Ms. R K Srirakshathi - Student, DAV Girls Gopalapuram
(Contestant, Chitrakala Utsav 2024-2025)



Unit 1: Me and my friends

Building hobbies: Hobbies are activities that one does to relax and enjoy, these are very important in making us feel good. It also helps us in developing interest in many things. Let us look at hobbies of some people:



Hi, I'm Ram. I am a rail fan. My hobby is watching trains, understanding rail routes and how rail signals work. Every time a new train route is announced, I book tickets and travel on it to understand its route. I have travelled in 2000 trains until now.



Every time I travel, I feel the same excitement I had when I travelled the first time.



Hello! My name is Shyla. I collect leaves. I think trees are our biggest friends. Every time I travel to different places, the first thing I do is, look for trees and plants. I have an entire collection of coloured leaves, but all of them look brown now. I maintain an album of the actual leaf, a picture of where I found it and a note of where and when the picture was taken. Right now, there are 1270 leaves in my collection

Namaste, I'm Kamakshi. I collect miniature items. I have a book that is just one inch, a spoon that is 3 cm long, miniature home furniture, cutlery set and many more. I have been collecting these ever since I was 10 years old. I display my collection every year during Navarathri. I even have a world record for the largest miniature collection.



Activity 1.1: Read the following questions and discuss in groups:

1. Which one do you think is the most interesting hobby and why?
2. Do you have a hobby?

Appreciating someone for their work is part of social etiquette. It is important to do this with a lot of care. Here are some suggestions on how you can appreciate someone:

1. **What was good?**
2. **Be specific.**
3. **Say how their work made you feel.**

1. Look at the conversation below to understand how to appreciate someone:

Situation: Sita participates in a dance competition but does not win a prize. Her friend Jay appreciates her.

Jay: Sita, you **danced really well**. I liked **how you managed even when the music went off**. I was proud of you.

Sita: Thank you so much Jay.

Activity 1.2: Work with a partner, choose one of the situations and role play one of them:

1. You and your friend made a poster together. Appreciate each other.
2. Your mother makes your birthday very special. Appreciate her efforts.
3. Your brother packs his lunch on his own. Appreciate his efforts.
4. Your father plans a great holiday. Appreciate him for his efforts.
5. Your friend played a game very well and won the match for the school.
6. Your sister drew a picture of you. Appreciate her drawing.
7. Your friend did better than last time in a test. Appreciate his efforts.

Activity 1.3: Let's play and have fun with this Board game: Know me better



I love to do this...

I am scared of...

I ask my parents help when...

I can do this on my own...

One word I often say...

I hate to

GO BACK TO START

Subjects I am good at are...

When I grow up I want to be...

FINISH

TER



Senthil is fond of the animal kingdom. He particularly likes spiders. Let's read what he thinks about spiders.



In my opinion, spiders are one of the most important creatures. I have **three reasons** for this. **One**, spiders eat smaller insects like flies, mosquitoes and tiny cockroaches, so they keep insects away. **Two**, spiders are the most interesting architects, they can make strong and huge webs with their saliva. **Third**, this web made by the spider has medicinal value and it can heal bruises. So, **I think** spiders are one of the most important creatures.



Let us see look at some points on how to share an opinion with supporting statements:

1. Start with your opinion: I think..., In my opinion....
2. State three reasons to support your opinion: Add facts here so that your argument becomes stronger. In this you can say how this creature contributes to the world at large and is a friend of humans.
3. Conclude by stating your opinion again.

Activity 1.4: Prepare your own speech to talk about why you support an animal, bird or an insect and say how it is useful to us. Write your points in the space below:

Opinion:

Point 1:

Point 2:

Point 3:

Conclusion:

Reading with expressions is an important activity to practice voice modulation. Read the tips for reading carefully and read the story given below that with expressions:

Tips for reading

- Pause at a comma, question mark and exclamation mark
- Stop at a full stop
- Use a different voice for the narrator and the characters
- Get the mood of the scene to emote for the voice
- Whisper when you have to
- Speak loudly when you have to



Activity 1.5: Read the excerpt of a story with expressions, pay attention to the dialogues and the mood of the scene:

(Adapted from Ashoka and the Muddled Messages by Natasha Sharma)

A Dharma tour, though not as extravagant as the King's tours in the past, still needed a lot of preparation. With only an evening to organise, the Antarvamsika, the Agarmatya and other councillors swung into action. Orders echoed through the palace complex and through Patliputra.

'Trot out the horses and brush their coats to a shine!'

'Scrub down the elephants! Have the weavers send us their best cloth for laying on top.'

'Adjust the howdah a bit to the left! Stop! Now to the right! A teeny bit here!'

'Out of my way! Out of my way!'

Check the royal umbrella, Swish the fly whisk. Unfurl the flags.'

'Out of my way! Out of my way!'

'Get those drummers to practice!'

'Open the armory! Hand out weapons to the soldiers.'

'Where are the monks and priests? What aren't they chanting?'

'Out of my way! Out of my way!'

'Take the jewels and gold from the treasury.'

'Get the drummers to stop their infernal din!'

'Out of my way! Out of my way!'

All over the palace was confusion and chaos. There were pots, pans and vegetables to be loaded for the journey. There was the equipment for setting up camp wherever the King decided to stop- from the tents and bedding to the King's comb, soap, oil, powder and clothes, all of which had to be put into sealed packs overseen by the Dauvarika.

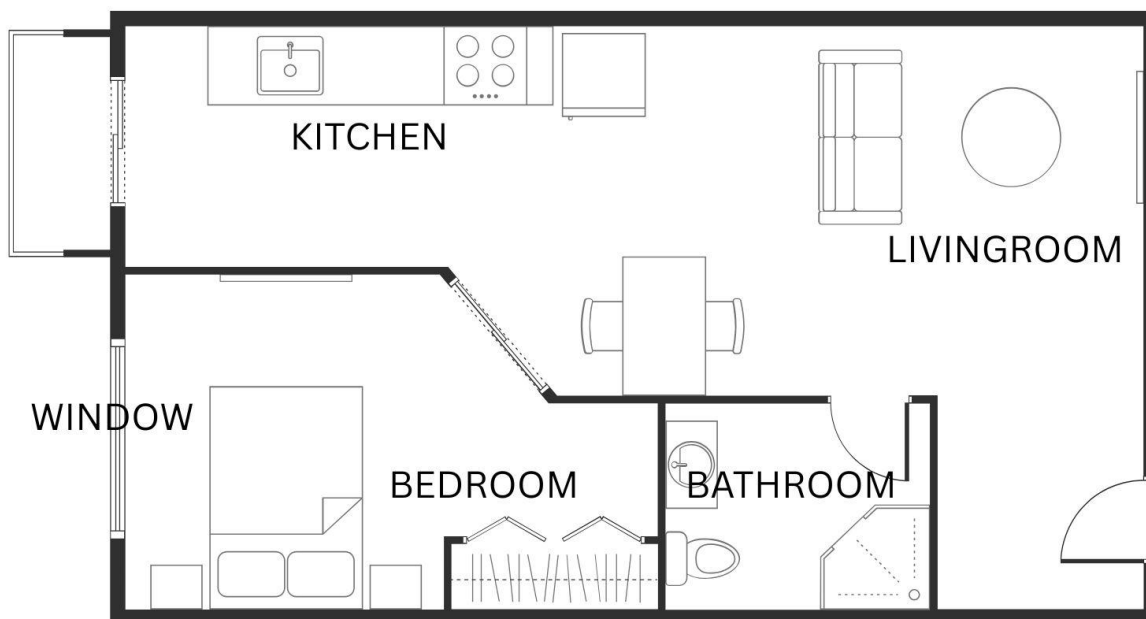
Unit 2: My family

Read the tongue twister, say it three times as fast as you can:

I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish,
but if you wish the wish the witch wishes,
I won't wish the wish you wish to wish.

Put on the detective hat!

A plan of the ground floor of a house is given below. There is a kitchen, a living room, one bedroom and a bathroom.



A thief has entered the house from somewhere and few things have gone missing. Upon investigation, the detectives observed the following:

- Kitchen glass broken
- Glass in the bathroom window missing

- Flower vase in the living room broken
- Bedroom cupboard doors were open and clothes lying all over
- Bicycle parked outside the house missing

Activity 2.1: Work in groups. Imagine you are a team of detectives. Trace the route of the thief by drawing a dotted line and make a list of items that have gone missing. Where did the thief enter from and how did the thief go out? Present your findings to the class.

Fun with words, let's create new words adding Prefixes and Suffixes.

A Prefix is something that is added in front of the word, for example 'Re-' is a prefix which means 'again'. When that is added to the word 'use', the word we get is REUSE which means 'use again'.

Activity 2.2: Work with a partner. Create 5 words starting with Re-, look at their meaning in the dictionary and write it.

Word	Meaning
<i>Reuse</i>	<i>Use again</i>

A Suffix is something that is added at the end of a word, for example, '-ful' is a suffix which means 'full of'. When that is added to the word 'use', the word we can make is USEFUL which means 'full of use'

Activity 2.3: Create 5 words ending with -ful, look at their meaning in the dictionary and write it.

Word	Meaning
<i>Useful</i>	<i>Full of uses</i>

Did you know, you can use the question words effectively to find out any information about people or events? Given below are some question words and explanation on what you can use them for:

What – can be used to find out name, place, actions

When – can be used to ask about time

Why - can be used to find the reason for something

Where – can be used to ask about a location/ place

How – can be used to find out about the way something was done

Activity 2.4: Use the question words to create questions for interviewing a grandparent in the box below:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

After the interview with a grandparent, present your findings in the classroom. Make notes of what you would like to share from the interview in the space below:

Let's learn how to make notes to describe a picture. When you look at a picture...

1. Start talking about the setting- the background, natural features etc. For example:
 - a. *There is/There are...*
 - b. *This is a _____ picture*
2. Then describe people/ animals, birds in the picture. Use the following format
 - a. *The _____ is ---+ing*
 - b. *The _____ is ----+ing*
3. Lastly, talk about objects and where they are placed.
 - a. There is a _____ next to _____.
 - b. I see a _____.

Activity 2.5: Describe the following picture. Which family do they belong to?



Unit 3: My school and community

The following words are **direction helpers**. They help you locate a place. Read them aloud

In between	Next to	After	Above	Below	Left
Right	First	Second	Third	Near	Behind

Let's use these direction helpers to give directions from the school gate to the class. Remember, there may be more than one way to reach your class. You may also need to use landmarks in your directions. Some are given below

Ground Floor/ First Floor/ Second Floor/ Third Floor

Play ground, Basket ball court, Stage, Quadrangle, play area etc

Activity 3.1: Think of two ways in which you can reach your classroom from the school gate and share with a partner

Let's play the game THE PLACE PUZZLE. Read the clues given and find out the place the clues are describing:

Place Puzzle 1- This is a big open space. It can accommodate lakhs of people at a time. People prefer to come here during summer. You come in with clean legs and go back with dirty legs.

Place Puzzle 2: This is a circular or oval enclosed place where thousands of people come to sit on stands.

Place Puzzle 3: Every household has this space, some have access, some don't, it is open to the sky all the time.

Activity 3.2: Create at least two place puzzles with a partner and write them in the box below:

<p>Answer:</p>

<p>Answer:</p>

Activity 3.3: Use the picture and create a story



Getting an appointment is important in many scenarios, when you want to ensure that there is a table for you, especially if you are going as a large group to a restaurant or when you visit a doctor or when you need to get a haircut. Let's look at two sample conversations for booking appointments given below:



Situation 1: Booking a table at a restaurant: Restaurant Staff (RS) and Caller (C)

Phone rings

RS: This is Fumes Kitchen, how can I help you?

C: I would like to book a table for five, for dinner tomorrow

RS: Thank you, Sir. We have two slots for dinner: 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

C: Ur.. I would like to take the 7:00 p.m slot.

RS: Sure Sir, thank you. Can I have your name and number?

C: Booking in the name of Sivakumar, number:- 8000240002

RS: Could you repeat the number please?

C: It is 8-0-0-0-2-4-0-0-0-2

RS: Thank you, Sir. You will receive a confirmation SMS.

C: Thank you

Situation 2: Book an appointment with a doctor: Caller (C) and Hospital Staff (HS)

Phone Rings

HS: Good evening, Maruthi Clinic.

C: Good evening, I would like an appointment with Dr. Sumathi.

HS: Sure Madam, Dr. Sumathi comes in the mornings between 10:00 and noon and in the evenings between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays.

C: I would like an appointment on 13th May, Friday in the evening.

HS: Ok Madam, what is the name of the patient?

C: Ms. Revani

HS: Is it Ms. Revani, R-E-V-A-N-I?

C: Yes

HS: Phone number?

C: 8-0-0-0-2-4-0-0-0-2

HS: Thank you, Madam.

C: You're welcome

Activity 3.4: Create dialogues with a partner to book an appointment at a restaurant or to meet a doctor. Write your dialogues in the box below:

Unit 4: World Around me

Bala writes a letter to his daughter Priti while he is on an official trip. Read the letter below and discuss the questions given below:

Dear Priti,



Appa is visiting many places, when I finally come home, you are going to be thrilled. Here's a list of things I have for you

Two Pashmina Shawls and a picture of Niagara Falls

A Mexican Hat and a Turkish Mat

A Japanese fan and an Australian Boomerang

Columbian Bags and Albanian Rugs

And finally, five sweets from our own motherland.

With love,

Bala

03/05/23



How many countries did Bala visit?

How many gifts is he getting for Priti?

How many Indian items and how many items from other countries is he getting?

How to talk about special things from a place?

Let's look at how Arpit plans what to say about his mother's saree:

What is it?	<i>Silk Saree</i>
Where is it from?	<i>Kancheepuram</i>
Why is it well known?	<i>These sarees are made in handlooms by the weavers and have very special designs. The border designs are sometimes made of real silver or even gold.</i>



Namaste everyone. I am going to talk about my mother's saree. This is a silk saree from Kanchipuram. These sarees are made in handlooms by the weavers and have very special designs. The border designs are sometimes made of real silver or even gold.

Activity 4.1: Choose an object that you have bought from another city, state or country. Create your plan to talk about it in the table below and present it in the class with the object.

What is it?	
Where is it from?	

Why is it well known?

Act like a news reporter

Archana is 10 years old. She wants to be a news reporter. One day her father called her from his office, it was a video call. He showed her a crocodile that had come into the parking area of his office premises because of the rains. She asked her father some questions and prepared notes for her reporter news series.

Given below are her notes. Read them carefully:



What appeared in the IT park?	A crocodile
How big was it?	Large
Was it male or female?	Unknown
What time was it spotted?	It was spotted at 6:00 p.m.
Who spotted it?	Some employees and the security personnel
Where did they spot it?	In the bushes behind the car park

What did it do?	It moved from the bushes to the car park and then to a puddle near the neem tree.
How long was it there?	It is still there.
What did the security do?	Alerted the Zoo Animal Rescue Team

Activity 4.2: Use Archana’s notes and create a news report for the class news channel. You can imagine you are the reporter from the site and present the information.

Activity 4.3: Expensive reading exercise

A noise in the night...

- Adapted from The Battle Bubble and Squeak by Philla Pearce

It was the middle of the night, and everyone in the house was asleep.

Everyone? Then what was that noise?

CREAK! And then, after a pause, CREAK! And then, CREAK!

Pooja heard it. The noise woke her as the crying of the children would have woken her up. But this noise was not from her children. She nudged her husband, he was fast asleep. She nudged and nudged and nudged and nudged until he turned with a sleepy groan, ‘mmmmmm.... What is it?’

“Jo!” she whispered, “come on! wake up!”

“Yessssss,” he said. “Just a minute and I’ll do that.”

“Did you hear that?”

CREAK! And then CREAK! And then, CREAK!

“hmmmm.... Wake up!”

“yes”

“What is it?”

“I don’t know!”

“But it is in the house!”

“hmmmm it is!”

“Downstairs!”

“Yes”

“What are you going to do about it? Jo.... Jo”

Jo woke up with a jolt. He tried hard to think clearly about what he should do. First, he ought to wake up properly, then get up and then find out what that noise is or who made that noise.

Different Cultures same emotions

Indu and Raj went to different places in November, Indu went to Thailand and Raj to Odisha. When they returned, they had exciting things to talk about. Read what they have to say:

Namaste, I’m Indu. I went to Chiang Mai in Thailand with my family this November. We went there to be part of the *Loy Krathong*, a famous festival in Thailand. It happens on the full moon day in the month of November. Thai people make a boat with palm and banana leaves, decorate the boat with candles, flowers, money and incense sticks and



float them in the rivers or lakes. This boat is called the *Krathong*. As they float the *Krathong*, they pray that their bad luck floats away.

Namaste, I'm Raj. I visited Puri in Odisha in November with my family. We went there to be part of the Boita Bandhana, a famous festival in Odisha. It happens on the full



moon day of the month of November. People come to water banks in the morning, float miniature boats made of banana stem, paper or cork. The float is decorated with lamps, flowers, coins, incense sticks and betel leaves and left on water bodies. The boat is called *Boita*. Floating the *Boita* is a ritual to celebrate the maritime history of traders who went to sea voyages to places like Indonesia, Java, Sumatra.

Activity 4.4: Discuss the following questions in groups

1. What are the similarities between the two festivals?
2. Are there any other festivals, you know about where lamps are floated on water?
3. Which one would you like to see and why?

Reflections: Let's think and reflect on what we have learnt in Speaking circles. Put a tick mark on statements that are true for you.

Points to think about	I need to improve this	I can do this	I do this quite well
When I speak the whole class can hear me.			
I speak clearly.			
I look at people when I speak.			
I can prepare speeches on my own.			
I can work with anybody in my class.			
I can be part of a group.			

