

# **Speaking Circles**

**Class - 8**

# 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**

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## Unit 1: Our lives

When it comes to talking about ambitions, some know what they want to achieve, others don't know. Look at what the teens have to say about their ambitions. Identify if they are talking about a personal ambition (buy a car, lose weight, have a peaceful life, visit Africa, run a marathon) or a career ambition (earn a degree, secure admission, publish a book, speak at a conference, get a promotion, win an election).

<p><b>Sandeep</b></p> <p>Hello everyone! My ambition is to earn a degree from BITS Pilani. I know I need to work really hard, but I am willing to go that extra mile to achieve that.</p>	<p><b>Neha</b></p> <p>I have to be part of the Indian Army one day. To achieve this, I have to prepare myself mentally and physically. It will be a dream come true when I wear the dark green uniform.</p>
<p><b>Jayanth</b></p> <p>Becoming a successful businessman is my biggest dream. I am really good at finding solutions to problems, and I know that this is the most important mindset for an entrepreneur to have.</p>	<p><b>Megala</b></p> <p>My only ambition right now is to lose weight. I need to lose at least 5 kgs before my 14th birthday.</p>

**Some idioms you can use with ambitions are:**

- Go the extra mile: I know if I have to get a promotion, I have to go the extra mile.
- Dream come true: Buying a car is a dream come true.

**Activity 1.1: Create a script for your ambition and share it with the class**



## Talking about habits

Think about your habits in terms of how frequently you do something. For example:

*I always carry a notebook along.*

*I seldom watch cartoons.*

**Activity 1.2:** Fill the table with details of your habits and share it with a partner

<b>I always</b>	
<b>I usually</b>	
<b>I often</b>	
<b>I sometimes</b>	
<b>I occasionally</b>	
<b>I seldom</b>	
<b>I never</b>	



## Unit 2: Our communities

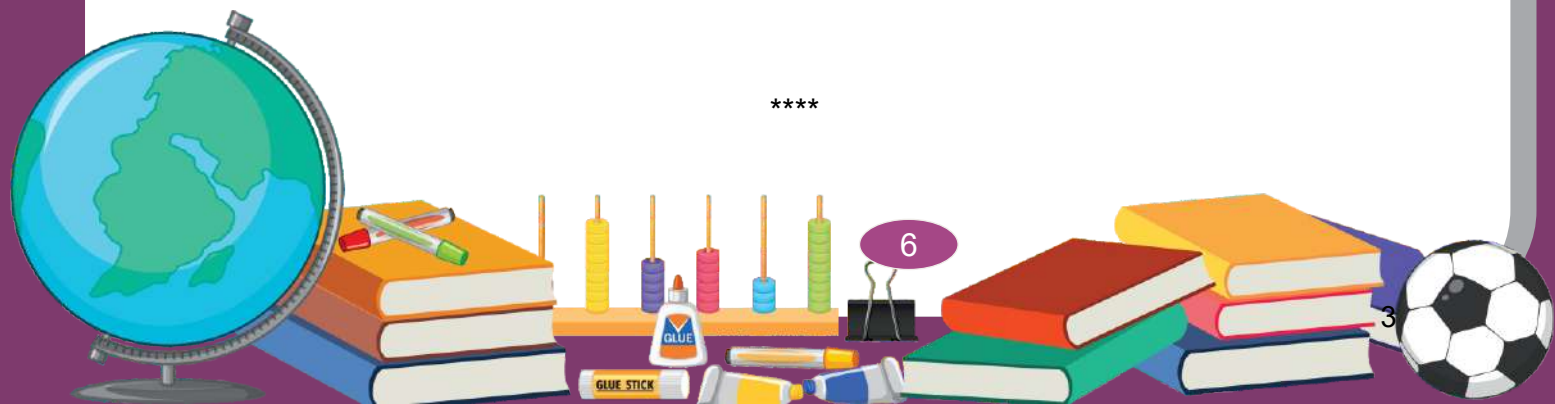
We are aware of the Do's and Dont's to be followed in public places and in special cases such as a fire drill.

**Activity 2.1:** Work in groups, choose one of the scenarios and create a list of Dos and Don'ts:

1. An unidentified bag is found in a railway station
2. Garbage disposal
3. In a library
4. Etiquette in public
5. Safety rules for kids in public places

Do's	Dont's

\*\*\*\*



There are numerous things around us that need out-of-the-box thinking to find a solution. Look at the example below:

Problem: Leaky tap, can't find a plumber immediately

Solution: Tie a cloth or rope around the tap to prevent leakage.

**Activity 2.2:** Discuss with a partner, find quick solutions to everyday problems given in the table, identify two more problems and find solutions to all the problems listed below:

Sno	Problem	Solution
1	Rainy days- uniform doesn't dry	
2	White shoe- not polished	
3	One leg of the table is shorter than the others.	
4		
5		

\*\*\*\*

Notes for imaginary story telling:



## Unit 3: Our world

Read the article of a 90's kid to understand their life.

### No screens, only screams!

Hello, I am Naveen from the 90s. Our childhood was an unfiltered adventure. When we clicked a picture on one of our cameras, we weren't sure what was captured and how it would turn out. Capturing moments was restricted to 36 frames at a time.

The whole world knew when you received a notification, because it would be the voice of a relative who called loudly to announce to you and the world about a call on the landline. When someone was asked to shut the windows, one would diligently close the windows of our house and not click on the 'x' mark on the screen. We went out in the rain, rolled on the floor, ate with dirty hands and drank juice from the same straws. We neither had so many luxuries nor were we worried about any new disease.

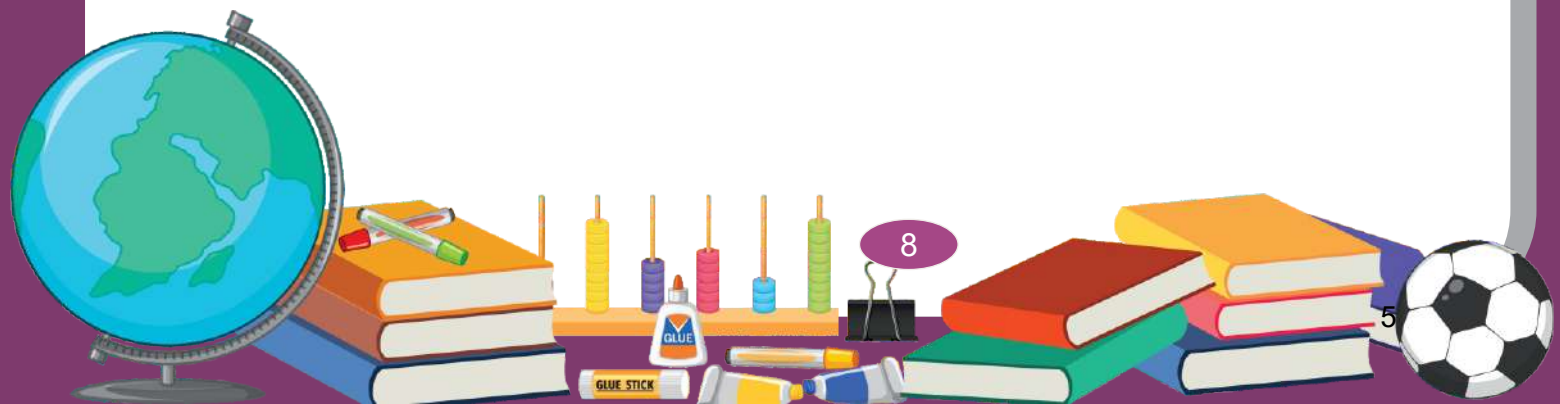
However, some things have not changed even now, like the happiness when someone wishes you on your birthday, tension when exam results are declared and having secrets with friends. Life then and now, are far apart yet so close enough!

**Activity 3.1:** Identify similarities and differences in life then and now. Share it with a partner.

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Here are some modals that will help you talk about possibilities:

1. **may** – It may rain tomorrow.
2. **might** – She might come to the party.
3. **could** – We could win the match.
4. **possibly** – He's possibly stuck in traffic.
5. **maybe** – Maybe I'll study later.



**Activity 3.2:** Imagine you have the power to predict the future using the expressions of possibilities. Work with a partner and make three predictions about their future.

Read the following riddle and guess the answer.

**Riddle:** A man was out on a rainy day, he had nothing to cover his head, as he walked he didn't get a single hair on his head wet. How?

**Activity 3.3:** Create two riddles, make it as descriptive as possible and as challenging as possible

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Recognising good work: It is always important to appreciate and recognise good work.

Here is a certificate given to someone: Guess what work does Ms. Malathi do in school?



**Activity 3.4:** Identify two people in your school you would like to appreciate and make a certificate for them.

**Tip:** Make your appreciation genuine by saying something specific



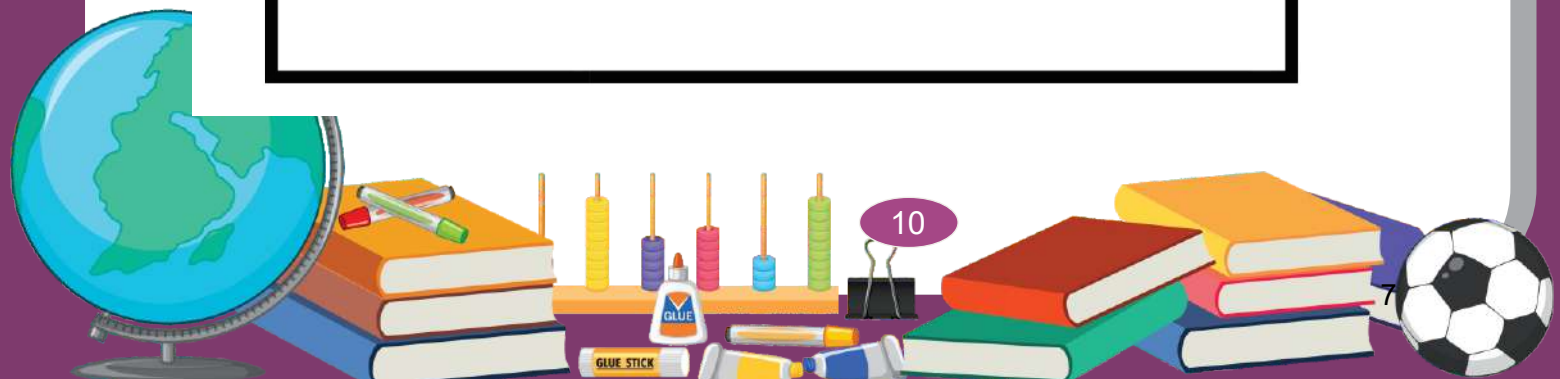
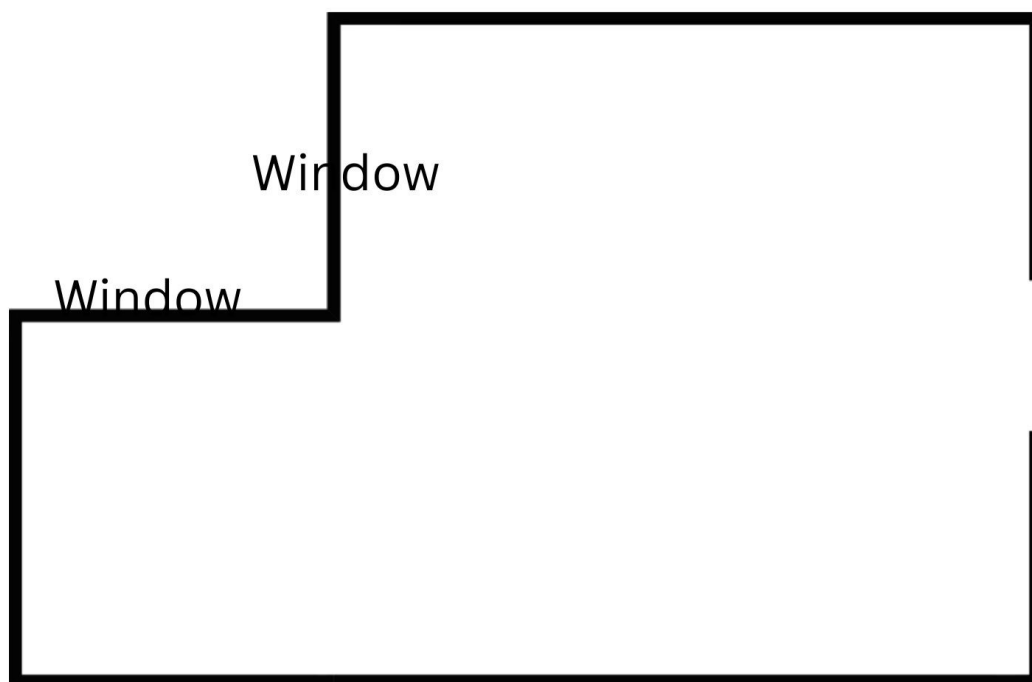
## Unit 4: Building skills for future

**Activity 4.1:** Prepare a role play with a partner to give directions to one of the following places:

- Nearest bakery
- Nearest stationery shop
- A bus stop
- A hotel
- Hospital

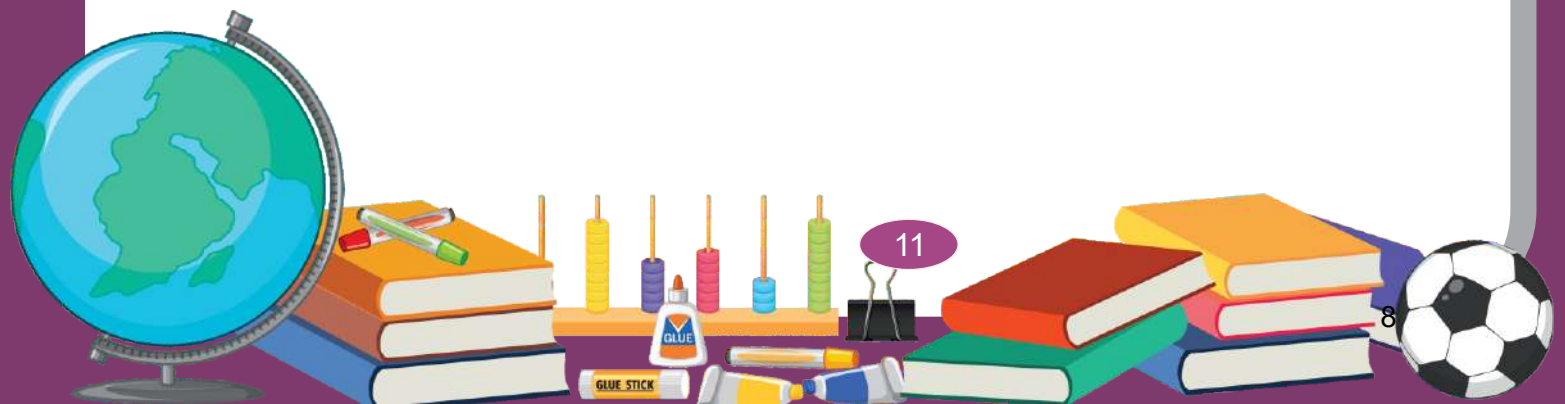
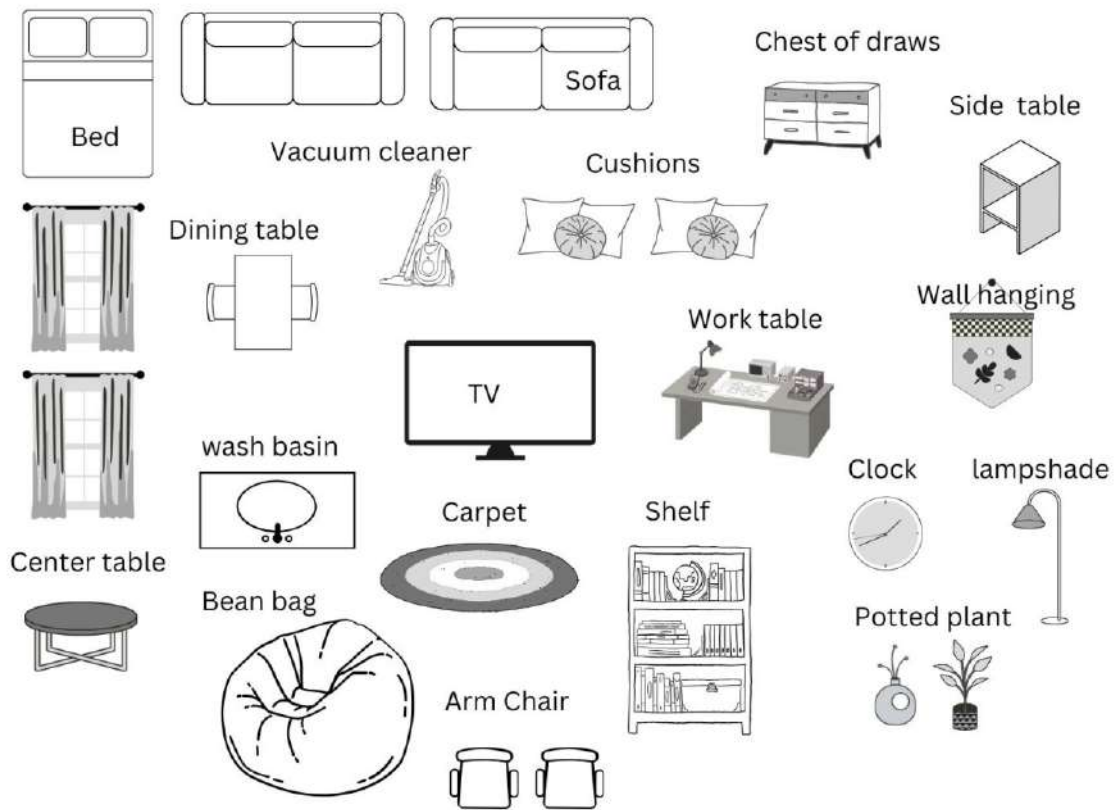
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This is Ganapathy's room. There is a list of things he would like to keep in his room but needs help with arranging them to make the room look presentable and spacious.



**Activity 4.2:** Discuss in groups to arrange things in Ganapathy's room

Tip: Remember to use expressions for giving suggestions you have learnt earlier.



## Unit 5: Our vision for future

When someone misunderstands you or your intentions or the way you had said something you could use the following statements to explain yourself:

Let me explain myself...

Maybe, I haven't made it very clear...

What I mean is...

I am trying to say...

Let me put it this way...

Here are some scenarios for which you could mend what you say

**Activity 5.1:** Choose one of the following scenarios to prepare a role play to mend conversations:

1. You and your classmate were found eating lunch during class hours. You tried to explain but it made the teacher angry, mend what you said.
2. Your friend has not completed his assignment so he submits an AI generated assignment. Ask him why he/she did that and explain why it should not be done.
3. Your brother/ sister went out without informing your parents because he/ she was not sure if parents would allow it. Talk to your sibling and ask for an explanation.
4. You didn't invite a friend for your birthday and he/she found out about it. You tried to explain but it made him/her angry. Mend what you say.



**Reflections:** Think about different things you have learnt during the speaking circles classes and fill in the table below:

Things I do well...	What do I need to improve?
How do I work with groups?	How do I work alone?

