Signposting Language – Speaking Part 3

Teacher's notes

Aim: Better able to use a range of discourse markers / connectives (Assessment Criteria – *Fluency and Coherence*) **when answering typical speaking part 3 style questions (e.g.** *speculate, compare, agree / disagree*).

Instructions

1**.** Write the words below on the board. Tell Ss that in speaking part 3, you're often asked to do one or more of these things. Check Ss understand speculate (= make guesses about something).
- **compare**
- **comment on**
- **speculate**
- **explain**
- **agree or disagree**

Tell Ss you're going to answer a part 3 question. Can they tell which of the above you are doing?

Say: "*We eat unhealthy food and don't get enough exercise. A lot of people can't control their weight."*
 Ss probably won't be able to tell you which of the above you are doing or you'll get a variety of answers. Tell them to listen again, but you'll change it slightly.
Say: "*I think it's because we eat unhealthy food and don't get enough exercise. That's the main reason that a lot of people can't control their weight."*
Ss should identify that you are **explain**ing. Ask why it was easier the second time (**because you used signposting words** – *it's because…, that's the main reason that…*)

Tell Ss that signposting helps the listener follow your message. They're going to look at signposting answers in part 3 of the speaking test.

2. Hand out worksheet 1. Ss skim read the candidates' answers. Elicit the topic (qu1) **= food.**

3. Ss in pairs match a function to a candidate's answer (worksheet 1, qu2) – feed back.

4. Ss complete ex 3 + 4 on worksheet 1. Feed back by going through each speech bubble in turn (e.g. *In A, which phrases does he use to agree or disagree? To talk about past and present?* etc)

5. Ss work in pairs to write down what they think the four questions were. Hand out worksheet 2 so they can check how close their suggestions were.

6. Ss write the signposting language onto the table and try to add phrases of their own. Feedback onto the board and check / rephrase any expressions Ss supply.

7. Put Ss in pairs to roleplay candidate / examiner. They ask / answer the questions from the top of worksheet 2. 'Examiner' should give feedback about how well they used signposting language.

Alternative suggestion / follow up
At stage 7, instead of answering the same questions, you could ask Ss to suggest a topic (e.g. *transport, the environment, animals, careers*, etc). They then write questions which require answers which speculate, agree / disagree, explain, etc. and interview each other using their questions.

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ANSWER KEY - Signposting Language – Speaking Part 3

Worksheet 1
1. What was the topic? **– Food**
2. compare two things **C (and A to some extent – comparing past and present)**
   comment on the past and present **A**
   speculate about the future **D**
   explain / give reasons for something **B**
   agree or disagree with a statement **A**

3 and 4 (phrases to introduce opinion in bold)

A   No, <u>I'm not sure I entirely agree</u> with that because <u>nowadays</u> supermarkets tend to be located quite far away from residential areas. So if you haven't got a car, **I think** it would be really difficult to do your food shopping. <u>In the past</u>, you could walk to a local shop in your village. <u>These days</u> most of them have closed down as a result of supermarkets taking their trade away…

B   **In my opinion**, <u>the main reason for</u> the popularity of fast food is <u>because</u> it's so convenient. We're so readily tempted to a burger or a pizza <u>because</u> they're very easy to get hold of. You also see ads everywhere for fast food. And it always looks delicious so you think…'Mmm…actually a burger would be nice'…

C   Well, **I suppose** <u>there are many differences</u>, but I think <u>the main one is</u> that you tend to expect something <u>more special</u>…and probably <u>less healthy</u>, when you eat in a restaurant. <u>Whereas</u> when you eat at home, you've cooked it yourself so, unless you're a chef, it'll probably be <u>less interesting</u>, but <u>not as unhealthy</u>…

D   **I really believe that** <u>in the future</u>, we'll eat very different types of food. Firstly, **I think** people <u>will definitely</u> stop eating genetically modified food – it's got to be really bad for you. <u>I doubt that</u> people <u>will</u> just eat pills – eating is too pleasurable. <u>If</u> GM foods <u>become</u> less popular, I actually think that we <u>might</u> start to value healthy, tasty, natural food…

5. See worksheet 2

Worksheet 2 (phrases from worksheet 1 are in bold)

comparing	talking about the past	speculating	giving reasons	agreeing	introducing opinion
There are many differences… **The main difference is**… **whereas** / while (x is …while / whereas y is… <u>Note:</u> remember to use **comparative structures** (more special, less healthy, not as unhealthy as…)	**In the past…** At one time… X years ago… When I was / my parents were young… <u>Note:</u> remember to use **past tenses** **talking about the present** **Nowadays** **These days** Currently / Presently At the moment <u>Note:</u> remember to use **present tenses**	**I think, in the future…** **will** / won't **will definitely** / definitely won't will probably / probably won't **I doubt that…will** **might** (not) / may (not) / could **If + present**, will / may / **might + infin**	**The main reason for (this is…)** I think it's **because**… I think there are several reasons for this…	That's true I completely agree I agree to a certain extent Absolutely! **disagreeing** **I'm not sure I entirely agree** I disagree / don't agree	**I** (really) **think**… **I** (really) **believe**… **I suppose**… **In my opinion**…

Worksheet 1 - Signposting Language – Speaking Part 3

1. Read some candidates' answers to questions in part 3 of the Speaking test. **What was the topic?**

> **A**   No, I'm not sure I entirely agree with that because nowadays supermarkets tend to be located quite far away from residential areas. So if you haven't got a car, I think it would be really difficult to do your food shopping. In the past, you could walk to a local shop in your village. These days most of them have closed down as a result of supermarkets taking their trade away…

> **B**   In my opinion, the main reason for the popularity of fast food is because it's so convenient. We're so readily tempted to a burger or a pizza because they're very easy to get hold of. You also see ads everywhere for fast food. And it always looks delicious so you think…'Mmm…actually a burger would be nice'…

> **C**   Well, I suppose there are many differences, but I think the main one is that you tend to expect something more special…and probably less healthy, when you eat in a restaurant. Whereas when you eat at home, you've cooked it yourself so, unless you're a chef, it'll probably be less interesting, but not as unhealthy…

> **D**   I really believe that in the future, we'll eat very different types of food. Firstly, I think people will definitely stop eating genetically modified food – it's got to be really bad for you. I doubt that people will just eat pills – eating is too pleasurable. If GM foods become less popular, I actually think that we might start to value healthy, tasty, natural food…

2. Which person was asked to:
- compare two things
- comment on the past and present
- speculate about the future
- explain / give reasons for something
- agree or disagree with a statement

3. Underline the phrases which helped you answer the question above.

4. The speakers also used different phrases to <u>introduce their opinion</u>. **Circle the phrases that they used (e.g. Speaker 1 = *I think…*)**

5. For each answer, what do you think the question was?

Worksheet 2 - Signposting Language – Speaking Part 3

A. Most people believe that shopping for food is easier today than it was in the past. What do you think?
B. Why do you think that fast food is so popular these days?
C. Can you tell me about the some of the differences between eating at home and eating in restaurants?
D. How do you think our eating habits will change in the future?

Complete the table below with phrases from worksheet 1. Can you add any phrases of your own?

Language for comparing	Language for talking about the past	Language for speculating about the future	Language for explaining / giving reasons	Language agreein
	Language for talking about the present			**Language disagree**

Practice answering the questions with a partner. Don't forget to use signposting language to help the listen