# PRESENTING THE FUTURE

A B2 speaking lesson: how to give a clear, confident presentation about future trends, predictions and possibilities.

### THE BIG IDEA

Good presentations are easy to follow. Tell your audience where you are going, move through your ideas with clear signposting, and finish with a strong conclusion.

## A presentation about the future usually has 6 moves:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Welcome<br>Greet the audience and check that everyone is ready. | 2. Introduce the topic<br>Say exactly what you are going to talk about. |
| 3. Give the roadmap<br>Tell the audience what you will cover. | 4. Develop the ideas<br>Present examples, evidence and possibilities. |
| 5. Move and conclude<br>Signal transitions and clearly finish. | 6. Questions / handover<br>Invite questions or introduce the next speaker. |

### PRESENTATION GOAL

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to present a future topic for 2–4 minutes using future forms + signposting language + examples + a clear conclusion.

# 1. OPENING THE PRESENTATION

Your first 20–30 seconds should tell the audience: Who are you? What is the topic? Why does it matter?

| | |
|---|---|
| Welcoming<br>• Hello, everyone.<br>• Good morning, everyone.<br>• Thanks for joining me today. | Introducing the topic<br>• Today, I'd like to talk about…<br>• My presentation is about…<br>• I'm going to look at… |
| Creating interest<br>• Imagine a world where…<br>• What will our lives look like in 20 years?<br>• Have you ever wondered what will happen if…? | Giving the purpose<br>• I'd like to explore how…<br>• The main question I want to answer is…<br>• We'll look at what the future may hold for… |

# 2. GIVING A ROADMAP

A roadmap makes your presentation easier to follow. Tell the audience what you will cover before you begin the details.

### Useful signposting

"First, I'll look at …. Then, I'll move on to …. Finally, I'll discuss …."
"I've divided my presentation into three parts: …, …, and …."
"Let's start by looking at …."

## MODEL OPENING

### Future of Transportation

"Hello, everyone. Today, I'd like to talk about the future of transportation. I'll focus on how technology will change the way we travel. First, I'll look at electric and autonomous vehicles. Then, I'll discuss public transportation. Finally, I'll consider how these changes could affect our cities."

# 3. TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

When you present future ideas, choose the future form according to the meaning you want to express.

| | |
|---|---|
| WILL<br>Prediction / expected change<br>“Electric cars will become more common.”<br><br>Instant prediction<br>“I think this technology will change the industry.” | BE GOING TO<br>Plans / intentions<br>“Many cities are going to invest in smart transport.”<br><br>Evidence-based prediction<br>“Look at those numbers. Demand is going to increase.” |
| PRESENT CONTINUOUS<br>Arranged future events<br>“The company is launching its new model next year.”<br><br>PRESENT SIMPLE<br>Schedules / timetables:<br>“The new service starts in June.” | MAY / MIGHT / COULD<br>Possibility<br>“AI may transform education.”<br>“People might work fewer hours.”<br>“This could reduce traffic.” |

### STRONG B2 LANGUAGE FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

It is likely that… • There is a good chance that… • It is unlikely that…
We can expect… • Experts predict that… • This is expected to…
In the long term… • Over the next decade… • By 2040…
One possible outcome is… • Another possibility is… • This could lead to…

# 4. DEVELOPING YOUR IDEAS

Avoid giving a list of predictions. Develop each idea with a simple pattern: POINT → EXPLANATION → EXAMPLE → EFFECT.

### Example

Point: “Remote work will probably become more flexible.”
Explanation: “Companies are increasingly using digital tools to manage teams.”
Example: “For example, employees can already work from different countries.”
Effect: “As a result, people may have more freedom to choose where they live.”

# 5. MOVING BETWEEN IDEAS

Signposting tells the audience where you are in the presentation.

| | |
|---|---|
| Starting a new point<br>• Let's start with...<br>• First of all...<br>• Let's turn to...<br>• Moving on to... | Adding an idea<br>• In addition...<br>• Another important point is...<br>• What's more...<br>• There's also the possibility that... |
| Giving an example<br>• For example...<br>• For instance...<br>• A good example of this is...<br>• Take ... as an example. | Contrasting<br>• However...<br>• On the other hand...<br>• Having said that...<br>• In contrast... |
| Referring to a visual<br>• As you can see on the slide...<br>• This graph shows...<br>• If you look at...<br>• The figures suggest that... | Buying thinking time<br>• Let me think about that for a moment.<br>• That's an interesting question.<br>• I'd say that...<br>• One way of looking at it is... |

# 6. CONCLUDING

### A simple 3-step ending

1. Signal the ending: "So, to sum up..." / "That brings me to the end of my presentation."
2. Recap the main idea: "We've seen that future technology could change how we work, travel and communicate."
3. Finish: "Thank you for listening. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

## HANDING OVER TO ANOTHER SPEAKER

### Useful phrases

"And now I'll hand over to Sara, who's going to talk about..."
"That's all from me. Now I'd like to invite Daniel to continue with..."
"Let's move on to the next part, which will be presented by..."

# 7. FULL MODEL PRESENTATION

## Topic: The Future of Education

### OPENING

“Hello, everyone. Today, I’d like to talk about the future of education. I’m going to focus on how technology may change the way students learn. First, I’ll look at AI in the classroom. Then, I’ll discuss online learning. Finally, I’ll consider what schools might look like in the future.”

### MAIN POINT 1 — AI

“Let’s start with artificial intelligence. AI will probably become a more important part of education. It could help teachers create personalized materials, while students may receive faster feedback. For example, AI tools can already adapt exercises to different levels. However, schools will need to think carefully about privacy and responsible use.”

### MAIN POINT 2 — ONLINE LEARNING

“Moving on to online learning, we can expect it to become more flexible. Students may be able to study with teachers and classmates from different countries. This could make education more accessible, although face-to-face interaction will still be important.”

### CONCLUSION

“So, to sum up, technology is likely to change education significantly, but it will not necessarily replace teachers. The future may combine human communication with powerful digital tools. Thank you for listening. Does anyone have any questions?”

# 8. YOUR TURN — BUILD A FUTURE PRESENTATION

Choose ONE topic and prepare a 2–4 minute presentation.

| Possible topics | More topics |
|---|---|
| • The future of money<br>• The future of jobs<br>• The future of travel<br>• The future of cities<br>• The future of fashion | • The future of food<br>• The future of healthcare<br>• The future of entertainment<br>• The future of communication<br>• The future of education |

## PRESENTATION PLANNER

| Part | Your notes |
|---|---|
| Opening | Greeting + topic + why it matters |
| Roadmap | First… Then… Finally… |
| Point 1 | Prediction + explanation + example + effect |
| Point 2 | Prediction + explanation + example + effect |
| Point 3 | Prediction + explanation + example + effect |
| Conclusion | To sum up… + main message + thanks / Q&A; |

## CHALLENGE

### Make it B2!

Use at least 5 signposting phrases, 4 different future forms, one example, one contrast, and one phrase showing probability (likely / may / might / could).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which future technology will have the biggest effect on our lives? Why?
2. What jobs might disappear or change? What new jobs could appear?
3. What will cities look like in 20 years?
4. Which predictions are realistic, and which are unlikely?
5. What is one thing you are confident will change in the future?

# QUICK REFERENCE — PRESENTING THE FUTURE

| FUNCTION | USEFUL LANGUAGE |
|---|---|
| Open | Hello, everyone. Today I'd like to talk about… |
| Introduce purpose | I'm going to look at… / I'd like to explore… |
| Roadmap | First… Then… Finally… / I'll focus on three areas… |
| Predict | will / be going to / is likely to / is expected to… |
| Show possibility | may / might / could / there is a chance that… |
| Give example | For example… / For instance… / Take … as an example. |
| Move on | Let's move on to… / Turning now to… |
| Contrast | However… / On the other hand… / Having said that… |
| Refer to slide | As you can see… / This graph shows… |
| Conclude | So, to sum up… / In conclusion… |
| Invite questions | Thank you for listening. Any questions? |
| Hand over | Now I'll hand over to… / I'd like to invite… |

## FINAL REMINDER

Don't memorize every sentence. Memorize your structure and key phrases. Use notes with keywords, make eye contact, and let your signposting guide the audience.