

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Notes for teachers	A / 21
<i>General aim</i>	A: ORAL TECHNIQUE	
<i>Level of difficulty</i>	2	
<i>Intermediate aim</i>	2: BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE OTHER PERSON	
<i>Operational aim</i>	1: Say what you see, what you hear, what you understand: 10: say what you hear 20: say what you see 30: say what you understand	
<i>Pre-requirements</i>	None	
<i>Number of exercises</i>		
<i>Comments</i>		

Recognise the components of a complex oral message: say what you hear

To understand, memorise, and perhaps reproduce the essential components of a complex oral message, you have to work on the skills of:

concentration and attention

At first the learners will practise with a text divided into four parts.

Each of the four parts will be read once by the teacher. There will then be a series of statements to which the learners will answer “yes” or “no” by writing the number of the statement followed by “Y” or “N”.

Each series of statements will be followed by the answers, with the text above for support. The other texts will then be read and the statements given. The exercise should take about an hour in all.

The criteria for success are as follows:

- First series of statements: 3 mistakes accepted
- Second series of statements: 2 mistakes accepted
- Third series of statements: 1 mistake accepted
- Fourth series of statements: 0 mistakes accepted

Text: part one

Two lives for science

Twelve hours a day, Marie worked in her laboratory at the chemistry and physics school. If we could call it a laboratory, very hot in summer, damp in autumn, cold in winter. The apparatus wasn't much good either. How could you do research in such conditions? But for Marie and Pierre, her husband, anything was possible. They loved each other, they were happy, and happiness, for them, was trying to discover together a kind of metal that no scientist in the world knew yet.

She was Marie Sklodowska, born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland. Her mother ran a little school; her father taught maths and physics. At seventeen, Marie, the best pupil in her class, passed her "baccalauréat". Unfortunately, young ladies were not allowed in Universities in those days in Poland. She would have to continue her education in Paris! Fine, but that was expensive. So, Marie works in a Polish family. In 1891, she had managed to save a little money and left for Paris.

First series of statements

1. Pierre was Marie's husband.
2. Marie was born in Austria.
3. Marie's mother was a teacher.
4. Marie's father taught maths and chemistry.
5. Marie passed her baccalauréat at the age of seventeen.
6. In Marie's country, at that time, girls were not allowed to go to school.
7. Marie left for Paris as soon as she had saved a little money.
8. Marie met Pierre in Paris.
9. Together they tried to discover a new medicine.
10. Their working conditions were bad.

Text: part two

Two lives for science (continued)

“I want to learn everything that the scientists have already discovered”, Marie wrote. And she studied maths, physics, managed to get two degrees. Every night, she would think of the happy days when she would return home to be a teacher herself. But her life had to be otherwise. In Paris, at the house of some friends, Marie met a great professor...

Pierre Curie was the son of a doctor in Mulhouse, France. He never went to school: his father and a tutor gave him lessons at home. The method worked for him: he passed his baccalaureat at the age of sixteen, his degree at eighteen. In 1882, Pierre Curie became head of works at the Physics and Chemistry School of Paris. One day in 1884, he met Marie Sklodowska. “It’s strange”, he said later, “to talk to a woman about the work you like and to see this woman understand and discuss certain points with great intelligence”. In July 1895, Pierre and Marie got married. Their wedding gift? Two bicycles with which they visited the countryside for a few days, but only a few days ...

Second series of statements

1. In Paris, Marie managed to pass her degree.
2. Marie wished to return one day to her native country to be a teacher.
3. Pierre Curie was a great professor.
4. He was the son of a doctor in Toulouse.
5. Pierre never went to school.
6. Pierre passed his degree when he was eighteen.
7. Pierre then became head of works at the Engineering school of Paris.
8. Pierre met Marie during a bicycle ride.
9. Pierre and Marie got married.
10. Pierre gave Marie physics lessons.

Text: part three

Two lives for science (continued)

Marie and Pierre worked feverishly to find this unknown metal. First, Marie, started research. She had read the works of Becquerel, a French scientist, who realized that a piece of uranium, put into a dark room, leaves a mark on a photo plate. Marie wanted to know what the substance was, that this metal contained, which had this power that she named radioactivity. She did numerous and long experiments. She noticed that radioactivity was not the same for all metals, which meant that the radioactive substances did not have the same proportions in every metal.

A long research work was going to start. The days went by and each was the same as the last...for forty-five months! Marie raised their daughter, Irene, born in 1896, cleaned, and continued her experiments. Pierre worked with her, but also gave lessons to some engineers. Their life was not easy. But at last they won an award. In July 1898, Pierre and Marie Curie managed to identify the first radioactive substance.

Third series of statements

1. Marie was the first to start the research on the unknown metal.
2. Marie read the works of a French scientist who studied uranium.
3. Uranium has the faculty of leaving a mark on a photo plate in the dark.
4. Marie gave this phenomenon the name of photo-activity.
5. Marie gave birth to a daughter.
6. Pierre and Marie's daughter was called Adele.
7. Pierre and Marie's life was far from easy.
8. Pierre and Marie finally managed to identify the first radioactive substance.
9. Pierre and Marie stopped their experiments at that point.
10. Pierre also gave lessons to engineers.

Text: part four

Two lives for science (end)

Three months later, a new substance was discovered: radium. Had they at last succeeded? Not yet. Some scientists did not agree. “What is radium? Have we seen any? Have we touched any? Show us a piece of radium. Then we will believe you”. Well, Pierre and Marie would show them! But at what a cost! They had to import some ore from Bohemia; they had to, bit-by-bit, treat hundreds of kilos of ore to finally obtain less than one gram of radium! Pierre continued his research in the laboratory. Marie worked like a man: with a big piece of iron, she stirred the ore that was boiling on the stove. Finally, in July 1902, 1/10 of a gram was prepared.

That same evening, as their little Irene was asleep, both scientists went back to the laboratory. “Don’t turn the lights on” says Marie. In the dark, Pierre and Marie could see the little piece of radium glow. This substance, millions of times more radioactive than uranium, brought heat, brought radioactivity to everything it touched, this substance with which we were going to be able to heal sick people, radium, was here, in front of them, the fruit of their own work. The two scientists said nothing. Marie started to cry, Pierre put his hand on her shoulder. They had just made a large step for Science.

(Adapted from Jacques Verdol (Hachette))

Fourth series of statements

1. Three months later, Pierre and Marie discovered radium.
2. All the scientists were amazed at this discovery.
3. The scientists of the time wanted to see and touch radium to believe in its existence.
4. You need hundreds of kilos of ore to have around 100 grams of radium.
5. All the other scientists tried to make radium.
6. Marie worked a lot and managed to prepare 1/10 of a gram of radium.
7. It was by then 1942.
8. The radium prepared by Marie was millions of times more radioactive than uranium.
9. Thanks to radium, lots of sick people would be cured.
10. Pierre and Marie, with their discovery, had closed a great door to Science.

Text: part one

Two lives for science

Twelve hours a day, Marie worked in her laboratory at the chemistry and physics school. If we could call it a laboratory, very hot in summer, damp in autumn, cold in winter. The apparatus wasn't much good either. How could you do research in such conditions? But for Marie and Pierre, her husband, anything was possible. They loved each other, they were happy, and happiness, for them, was trying to discover together a kind of metal that no scientist in the world knew yet.

She was Marie Sklodowska, born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland. Her mother ran a little school; her father taught maths and physics. At seventeen, Marie, the best pupil in her class, passed her "baccalaureat". Unfortunately, young ladies were not allowed in Universities in those days in Poland. She would have to continue her education in Paris! Fine, but that was expensive. So, Marie works in a Polish family. In 1891, she had managed to save a little money and left for Paris.

First series of statements

1. Pierre was Marie's husband.
→ Y
2. Marie was born in Austria.
→ Y
3. Marie's mother was a teacher.
→ N
4. Marie's father taught maths and chemistry.
→ Y
5. Marie passed her baccalauréat at the age of seventeen.
→ Y
6. In Marie's country, at that time, girls were not allowed to go to school.
→ N
7. Marie left for Paris as soon as she had saved a little money.
→ Y
8. Marie met Pierre in Paris.
→ N
9. Together they tried to discover a new medicine.
→ N
10. Their working conditions were bad.
→ Y

Text: part two

Two lives for science (continued)

“I want to learn everything that the scientists have already discovered”, Marie wrote. And she studied maths, physics, managed to get two degrees. Every night, she would think of the happy days when she would return home to be a teacher herself. But her life had to be otherwise. In Paris, at the house of some friends, Marie met a great professor...

Pierre Curie was the son of a doctor in Mulhouse, France. He never went to school: his father and a tutor gave him lessons at home. The method worked for him: he passed his baccalaureat at the age of sixteen, his degree at eighteen. In 1882, Pierre Curie became head of works at the Physics and Chemistry School of Paris. One day in 1884, he met Marie Sklodowska. “It’s strange”, he said later, “to talk to a woman about the work you like and to see this woman understand and discuss certain points with great intelligence”. In July 1895, Pierre and Marie got married. Their wedding gift? Two bicycles with which they visited the countryside for a few days, but only a few days...

Second series of statements

1. In Paris, Marie managed to pass her degree.
→ Y
2. Marie wished to return one day to her native country to be a teacher.
→ Y
3. Pierre Curie was a great professor.
→ Y
4. He was the son of a doctor in Toulouse.
→ N
5. Pierre never went to school.
→ Y
6. Pierre passed his degree when he was eighteen.
→ Y
7. Pierre then became head of works at the Engineering school of Paris.
→ N
8. Pierre met Marie during a bicycle ride.
→ N
9. Pierre and Marie got married.
→ Y
10. Pierre gave Marie physics lessons.
→ N

Text: part three

Two lives for science (continued)

Marie and Pierre worked feverishly to find this unknown metal. First, Marie, started research. She had read the works of Becquerel, a French scientist, who realized that a piece of uranium, put into a dark room, leaves a mark on a photo plate. Marie wanted to know what the substance was, that this metal contained, which had this power that she named radioactivity. She did numerous and long experiments. She noticed that radioactivity was not the same for all metals, which meant that the radioactive substances did not have the same proportions in every metal.

A long research work was going to start. The days went by and each was the same as the last...for forty-five months! Marie raised their daughter, Irene, born in 1896, cleaned, and continued her experiments. Pierre worked with her, but also gave lessons to some engineers. Their life was not easy. But at last they won an award. In July 1898, Pierre and Marie Curie managed to identify the first radioactive substance.

Third series of statements

1. Marie was the first to start the research on the unknown metal.
→ Y
2. Marie read the works of a French scientist who studied uranium.
→ Y
3. Uranium has the faculty of leaving a mark on a photo plate in the dark.
→ Y
4. Marie gave this phenomenon the name of photo-activity.
→ N
5. Marie gave birth to a daughter.
→ Y
6. Pierre and Marie's daughter was called Adele.
→ N
7. Pierre and Marie's life was far from easy.
→ Y
8. Pierre and Marie finally managed to identify the first radioactive substance.
→ Y
9. Pierre and Marie stopped their experiments at that point.
→ N
10. Pierre also gave lessons to engineers.
→ Y

Text: part four

Two lives for science (end)

Three months later, a new substance was discovered: radium. Had they at last succeeded? Not yet. Some scientists did not agree. “What is radium? Have we seen any? Have we touched any? Show us a piece of radium. Then we will believe you”. Well, Pierre and Marie would show them! But at what a cost! They had to import some ore from Bohemia; they had to, bit-by-bit, treat hundreds of kilos of ore to finally obtain less than one gram of radium! Pierre continued his research in the laboratory. Marie worked like a man: with a big piece of iron, she stirred the ore that was boiling on the stove. Finally, in July 1902, 1/10 of a gram was prepared.

That same evening, as their little Irene was asleep, both scientists went back to the laboratory. “Don’t turn the lights on” says Marie. In the dark, Pierre and Marie could see the little piece of radium glow. This substance, millions of times more radioactive than uranium, brought heat, brought radioactivity to everything it touched, this substance with which we were going to be able to heal sick people, radium, was here, in front of them, the fruit of their own work. The two scientists said nothing. Marie started to cry, Pierre put his hand on her shoulder. They had just made a large step for Science.

(Adapted from Jacques Verdol (Hachette))

Fourth series of statements

1. Three months later, Pierre and Marie discovered radium.
→ Y
2. All the scientists were amazed at this discovery.
→ N
3. The scientists of the time wanted to see and touch radium to believe in its existence.
→ Y
4. You need hundreds of kilos of ore to have around 100 grams of radium.
→ N
5. All the other scientists tried to make radium.
→ N
6. Marie worked a lot and managed to prepare 1/10 of a gram of radium.
→ Y
7. It was by then 1942.
→ N
8. The radium prepared by Marie was millions of times more radioactive than uranium.
→ Y
9. Thanks to radium, lots of sick people would be cured.
→ Y
10. Pierre and Marie, with their discovery, had closed a great door to Science.
→ N

Say what you see

The learners have in front of them the drawing on page 2. It is a private viewing in an art gallery (the teacher can explain what this is).

The teacher slowly reads the 12 sentences below leaving a maximum of 5 seconds between each sentence. After reading each sentence, he will give the number.

The learners listen to each sentence and look at the picture. They will write the number of each sentence directly on the picture, in the place which corresponds to the sentence they have just heard.

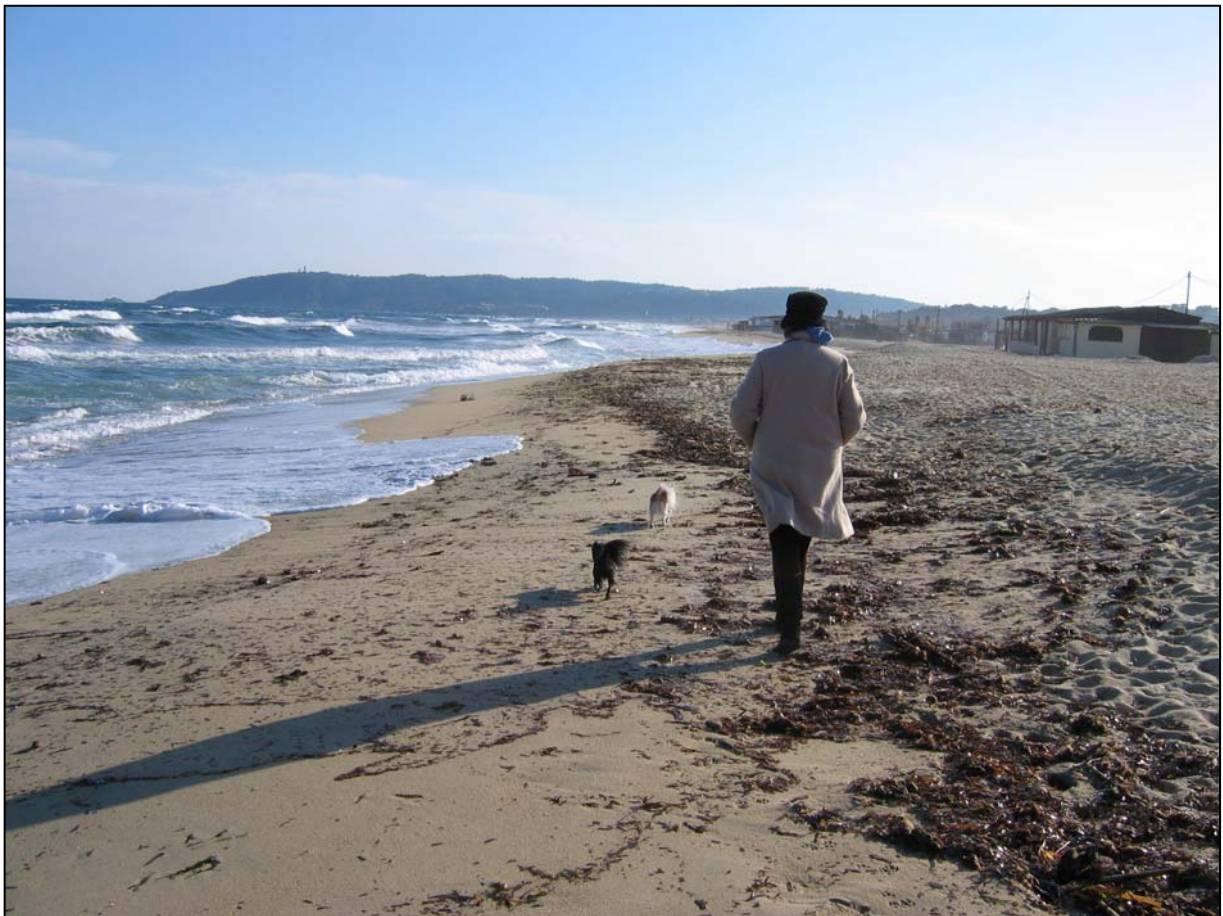
Then, in turn, they take each number written and describe (orally or in writing) what the number indicates. They will compare them with the sentence read by the teacher.

This pooling of answers allows them to see the different ways each learner has of finding what he is looking for.

- In the foreground, a lady with rings on her fingers is admiring a transparent cube. **1**
- A bald man, seen from behind, is looking at a painting. **2**
- One painting, narrower than the others, shows a cross followed by an arrow and a circle. **3**
- A man is holding a glass in his hand and smiling. **4**
- A man is holding the catalogue of the works of art and looking at one of two transparent blocks. **5**
- A fat lady is laughing all by herself. **6**
- One of the guests is taking a photo. **7**
- A woman wearing boots is talking to the artist. **8**
- A woman with black hair is talking to a man. **9**
- One painting represents a large cross. **10**
- A woman with a hat is holding a glass in one hand. **11**
- A woman in a long dress and large shoes is listening to the artist. **12**



Here is a photo with a caption. The learners must describe what they can see that justifies the caption.



Alone, in winter, by the sea

Say what you understand

Here are the notes of a journalist who is thinking about a series of crimes. You will read the notes and then, using the notes to help you, do the exercise on the next page.

The murder of the young secretary Eva Crispin took place two days before that of her so-called uncle George Lester. Neither of her parents had a brother. So how could she have had an uncle? George Lester was Human Resources manager at Factor, the company where Eva worked. Did Lester get her the job? According to the General Manager of Factor, Lester introduced Eva to him as his niece a few days after she was hired as secretary, three months ago. This point is not very clear. Must take a closer look at the relationship between the two victims.

Paul Bruno, the accountant at Factor, was filmed by video surveillance cameras in the car park at Factor at 11.16pm. He was going in. He was also filmed at 11.52pm as he was coming out. What was he doing at Factor at that time of night? Was he cooking the books? He said he stayed at home with his wife as a witness from 7pm to 8 o'clock the next morning. Might his wife be his accomplice? Could someone have borrowed Bruno's car to pretend to be him? What for, if not to make him look suspicious? It was early the next morning that the cleaning staff found the lifeless body of Lester in his office. The culprit could be this nocturnal visitor.

We know that Lester's wife is insanely jealous and that she threatened to kill him several times in front of witnesses. Could she have done it? Could she have pretended to be Bruno on the night of the crime? Might she also have killed young Eva out of jealousy? But the day Eva died, Monica Lester was 400 km from the scene of the crime... Could she have paid someone to do the dirty work for her?

In these sentences, you will tick all those which you think are correct according to the journalist's notes.

Be prepared to pool your answers and to justify them by quoting from the journalist's notes.

1. George Lester is definitely not Eva Crispin's uncle.
2. George Lester was assassinated two days after Eva.
3. George Lester was General Manager of the company Factor.
4. Eva was hired as secretary three months ago.
5. The relationship between Eva and Lester is not very clear-cut.
6. Paul Bruno could not have been cooking the books of the company Factor.
7. Paul Bruno could not have been at Factor the night when Lester was killed.
8. Someone could have pretended to be Bruno by borrowing his car.
9. Lester's wife could have killed Eva out of jealousy.
10. Monica Lester threatened Eva several times in front of witnesses.

You can look at the answers for A / 21 – 3.1

- x 1. George Lester is definitely not Eva Crispin's uncle.
- x 2. George Lester was assassinated two days after Eva.
 - 3. George Lester was General Manager of the company Factor.
- x 4. Eva was hired as secretary three months ago.
- x 5. The relationship between Eva and Lester is not very clear-cut.
 - 6. Paul Bruno could not have been cooking the books of the company Factor.
 - 7. Paul Bruno could not have been at Factor the night when Lester was killed.
- x 8. Someone could have pretended to be Bruno by borrowing his car.
 - 9. Lester's wife could have killed Eva out of jealousy.
 - 10. Monica Lester threatened Eva several times in front of witnesses.