

Speaking:

To practice speaking in front of a group, choose one of these conversation prompts and speak to your group. Ask the group if they understood you. Ask them if you made mistakes.

- 1-Faced with a choice of keeping your food budget low, or buying all organic, healthier, but more expensive food, which would you choose.
- 2-Give advice to a friend who tells you they saw a text message on their boyfriend's phone that indicates they are seeing someone else.
- 3-What advice would you give to someone who is new in Austin and wants to meet new friends?
- 4-What's the best way to protect against identity theft?
- 5-At what age is someone too old to serve as president of their country?
- 6-What have you learned from your older siblings?

Usage:

1. We use over not above to talk about ages and speeds, and to mean more than.

EX: We don't say, "You have to be above 18 to drink." Say: You have to be over 18 to drink.

Choose above or over in these sentences.

- a)The police said she was driving (above-over) 110 miles per hour.
- b)There were (above-over) two hundred copies of his book sold.
- c)The summit of Everest is 8,000 meters (above-over) sea level
- d)She's way (above-over) average in intelligence.
- e)The bridge is (above-over) two hundred feet tall.
- f)The joke went (above-over) her head.
- g)The temperature is just (above-over) freezing.
- h)The plane flew (above-over) the Appalachian Mountains.
- i)The (above-over) rules apply to all students.
- j)For prices and delivery charges, see (above-over).
- k)We'll be gone (above-over) the weekend.
- l)It remains to be seen if she can keep up a good attitude (above-over) the long haul.

2. The same issues occur with below and under.

EX: We don't say, "Look below the sink for the detergent." Say: Look under the sink.

Choose below or under in these sentences.

- a)The climbers camped just 300 meters (below-under) the peak of the mountain.
- b)A moment later the sun disappeared (below-under) the horizon.
- c)The cat just ran (below-under) the bed.
- d)That's hitting (below-under) the belt.
- e)What are you wearing (below-under) your sweater?
- f)The whole village is (below-under) water.
- g)The temperature is twenty degrees (below-under) zero.
- h)Parts of Holland are actually (below-under) sea level.
- i)Her intelligence is well (below-under) average.
- j)You can't see this film if you are (below-under) 18.

3. Accept and agreed are similar in meaning, but we usually use agree, not accept before an infinitive (to run, to go, to meet). Which of these sentences is correct?

- a)I just received and invitation to the wedding and of course I accepted to go.
- b)I accepted to meet him here.
- c)She agreed to marry him.
- d)They accepted our proposal.

4. Using “according to” and “in my opinion”. Which of these sentences use the correct phrase. Correct them if necessary.

- a) According to John, his sister is prone to losing her temper.
- b) The train gets in at 10:15 according to the timetable posted here.
- c) In the opinion of this brochure, the hiking trip is moderately difficult.
- d) In my opinion, this trip is too difficult for us.
- e) In Jess’ opinion, the police have arrived.

Grammar:

These sentences use the incorrect verb tense. Correct them. Do not change the verb, only the tense.

- 1. Everything is going well. We didn't have any problems so far.
- 2. Ann hasn't gone to work yesterday. She wasn't feeling well.
- 3. That woman wears the same sweater as you.
- 4. I didn't decide yet whether I will go on the trip.
- 5. I wonder why Jim is be so nice to me today.
- 6. Jane was sitting in the comfortable chair with a book in her lap, but she didn't read it.
- 7. I wasn't very busy. I wasn't having much to do.
- 8. It begins to get dark. Shall I turn on the light?
- 9. After leaving school, Tom has gotten a good job in a factory.
- 10. When Jane got the news she hasn't been very pleased.
- 11. Catherine was waiting for me when I was arriving.
- 12. I get hungry. Let's go have some lunch.

Vocabulary:

Discreet means careful or prudent. *Discrete* means separate. Which version should we use in the sentences below?

- 1. They had a brief and very _____ affair that was never in the public eye.
- 2. He breaks down CPU's down to their _____ components.
- 3. People should be more _____ when it comes to contacts in their iphones.
- 4. It is important that if you are nursing your child in a public place, that you do it _____ly.
- 5. Whale communities consist of many _____ individuals.

Discretion is a related word. If you behave with discretion, you act or speak in a way to avoid causing offense or calling attention to yourself. It can also mean the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation. EX: I'll leave it to your discretion whether you ask Michael's ex-wife to the party or not.