

## Lecture 7: Listening and Speaking in Sports Contexts

Oral communication is the primary mode of instruction in sports. This lecture covers listening comprehension (decoding fast speech) and speaking (giving feedback and interviews).

### 7.1 Listening: The Sports Commentary

Commentary is difficult for non-native speakers due to its speed, specific vocabulary, and unique grammar.<sup>42</sup>

- **The Grammar of Commentary:**
  - **The Instantaneous Present Simple:** Unlike normal English, commentary uses the Present Simple for quick actions happening *now*. “Messi **takes** the ball, he **shoots**, he **scores!**”.<sup>42</sup>
  - **The Descriptive Present Continuous:** Used for setting the scene or slower actions. “The 1akin gi **going** wild.” “The manager **is pacing** the touchline.”<sup>45</sup>
- **Listening Strategy:** Students should focus on identifying the **verbs** (shoot, pass, save) and the **nouns** (player names), ignoring the rapid filler words.

### 7.2 Speaking: The Media Interview

Athletes and coaches are frequently interviewed. Students practice role-playing these scenarios.<sup>14</sup>

- **The Interviewer:** Asks open-ended questions.
  - “Talk us through that final goal.”
  - “How do you prepare for such a big game?”
  - “What are your thoughts on the opponent?”
- **The Interviewee:** Uses “blocking” techniques or standard idioms.
  - *Idioms:* “We gave it 110%,” “1akin git one game at a time,” “It was a game of two halves,” “We need to bounce back.”<sup>47</sup>
  - *Grammar:* Use of the Present Perfect for recent events (“We **have worked** hard this week”) and Future forms for upcoming matches (“We **are going to** focus on recovery”).

### 7.3 Speaking: Giving Feedback

Effective feedback follows the “Feedback Sandwich” model (Positive – Corrective – Positive).

- *Step 1 (Praise):* “Great effort on that sprint, Ali.”
- *Step 2 (Correction):* “However, try to keep your knees higher during the drive phase.”

- *Step 3 (Motivation):* “Keep that up and your time will drop.”
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