

Task 7: Spoken texts

Read these transcriptions of recorded speech. Decide which is scripted dialogue, and which is spontaneous. Say what clues helped you decide.

(Note: speech transcription conventions – including minimal punctuation – have been used in both extracts. The sign [indicates an overlap, ie where one speaker starts speaking before another has finished.)

- <S1> = Tourist guide <S2> = Visitor
- 1 <S1> Hello can I help you?
 - 2 <S2> Yes I'm staying in Plymouth for a few days for a conference can I ask you a few questions about the town?
 - 3 <S1> Yes of course
 - 4 <S2> Well first about the sports facilities is there a swimming pool in Plymouth?
 - 5 <S1> Yes there is there's one near the sea on the other side of the Hoe and another at the sports centre but most visitors prefer to swim in the sea
 - 6 <S2> I see are there any good beaches?
 - 7 <S1> Yes there are there's one on the other side of the Hoe it's called Pebbleside Beach
 - 8 <S2> Mm good what about old buildings has Plymouth got a castle?
 - 9 <S1> No I'm afraid it hasn't [...]
 - 2
 - 1 <S1> Can I help?
 - 2 <S2> Yes erm I'm gonna stay in Plymouth for a couple of days erm I was wondering if I could get some information off you erm is there a swimming pool or in Plymouth
 - 3 <S1> Yes erm the one in the city centre where are you staying first of all?
 - 4 <S2> Er I haven't decided yet but somewhere in the city
 - 5 <S1> [You'll be central [<S2> Yeah] OK well there's a fun pool in the city centre that's The Pavillions but if you want some serious sort of exercise swimming then the [<S2> Yeah] it's Central Park that you need that has 33 metre pool that has lane swimming early in the morning [<S2> Right] and there's a separate diving pit as well there
 - 6 <S2> [Right and where where's that?
 - 7 <S1> It's at Central Park (6 seconds) right you're here at the moment [<S2> Yes] and Central Park is up here the swimming pool's [<S2> Oh right] up here [Lovely thanks erm
 - 8 <S2> there are any good beaches (1 second) around here?
 - 9 <S1> Sandy beaches do you mean?
 - 10 <S2> Yeah yeah
 - 11 <S1> Sandiest beaches are erm either Whitesand Bay which is over to the right vaguely as you're looking out of Plymouth Sound it's around sort of the corner and out along the bay there
 - 12 <S2> Yeah [...]

Task 8: Spoken texts

Re-write this dialogue including some of the features of unscripted speech that you identified in Task 7.

- A Where are you from?
 B I'm from Turkey.
- A Have you been to Edinburgh before?
 B No, this is my first visit to Scotland.
- A How long did it take?
 B Only six hours from London.
- A And where are you staying?
 B In a hotel near the centre.
- A How far away is it?
 B Not far.
- A What's it like?
 B It's quiet, but my room's a little small.
- A How did you come?
 B I got a taxi.
- A Whose drink is that?
 B I don't know. It's not mine. I haven't had anything to drink yet.
- A Would you like me to get you something?
 B Yes, please. A lemonade.
- A How do you like it?
 B With a little ice, please.
- A How many languages do you speak?
 B Turkish, of course, as well as Arabic and a little English.

From Bell, J and Gower, R. 1992 *Upper Intermediate Matters, Student's Book*. (Longman)