

# ACADEMIC ENGLISH SUPPORT DESK NEWSLETTER

Osaka University - Multilingual Expert Program



## VERBAL SKILLS FOR PRESENTING

Good presenting isn't just about your message. It's how you deliver the message that matters!

### Intonation and meaning

Putting stress on different words can result in quite dramatic changes in the meaning of a sentence. Consider the following sentences and their implied meanings:

I didn't say you stole my red hat = But someone else might have said it

I **didn't** say you stole my red hat = I deny that I said it

I didn't **say** you stole my red hat = I may have thought it, though

I didn't say **you** stole my red hat = I said someone else stole it

I didn't say you **stole** my red hat = I said you did something else with it

I didn't say you stole **my** red hat = I said you stole someone else's red hat

I didn't say you stole my **red** hat = I said you stole my green hat

I didn't say you stole my red **hat** = I said you stole my red scarf

It's vitally important that you mark keywords in your script and practise your presentation before you present, preferably at the Academic English Support Desk!

### Silence is golden (in presentations!)

Pauses normally mean bad news is coming during conversation. This is not the case in presentations, though. Pause for 1-2 seconds after each key point in your presentation for added effect!

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