

Time to Talk Public Speaking Competition 2025/26

Conditions and Regulations

1. Organiser

The Regional NET Coordinating Team (RNCT), Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau

2. Aims

Time to Talk Public Speaking Competition is an inclusive competition that aims to engage students of all ability levels to:

- learn public speaking techniques to hone their presentation skills;
- promote reading and creative use of English;
- experiment with the use of English to develop confidence in front of an audience; and
- develop research, collaboration and IT skills to improve their communication.

3. Design of the Time to Talk Competition

3.1 Time to Talk is open to students from public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) primary and secondary schools adopting local curriculum in Hong Kong. Students will work in a team or teams of 2 – 4 to deliver a public speech in English of 3 – 4 minutes, supported by the use of IT.

3.2 The competition comprises two rounds for both the Primary and Secondary Divisions, with Round 1 being conducted at the school level and Round 2 being the inter-school final, which will be held face-to-face.

3.2.1 Round 1 of the competition can be conducted for internal selection purposes or to engage more students in speaking tasks within schools. This round is designed for schools to engage as many students as possible in public speaking. It can be school-based or it may be inter-school on a small scale (e.g. involving nearby schools, schools from the same school-sponsoring body). It is the school's decision how they wish to conduct Round 1. It can be on a small or larger scale. Small individual trophies will be made available to student teams who gain 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in Round 1. These are, however, limited and will be given to schools on a first-come first-served basis. Schools will be able to receive a maximum of 12 trophies for Round 1: four 1st place trophies, four 2nd place trophies and four 3rd place trophies.

3.2.2 Round 2 is the finals. This will be a face-to-face competition. This will be judged at a location yet to be confirmed in May 2026 for both primary and secondary students. Students would perform live and be judged by a team of 2 adjudicators. Primary and secondary schools may enter up to two teams.

3.3 In case of oversubscription, schools will be entered on a first-come first-served basis.

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4. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Schedule	Event	Related Document
September 2025	Invitation to take part in Time to Talk	Email from the NET Section, CDI, EDB
End of September 2025	Conditions and Regulations on NET Scheme e-Platform	Conditions and Regulations
29 September 2025 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Briefing session (online)	EDB Training Calendar System (TCS) notification – online application (Course Code: CDI020260209)
11 November 2025	Public speaking Series: Speaking with Purpose (Face-to-face) (Re-run)	EDB Training Calendar System (TCS) notification – online application (Course Code: CDI020260213)
2 December 2025	Deadline for submission of entry forms	Time to Talk Competition Entry Form
December 2025 to March 2026	Round 1 to be held in schools	Email reminder
27 March 2026	Deadline for submission of the names of competitors	Names of competitors Google Form
May 2026	Face-to-face competition followed by award announcement and/or prize presentation on the event day (TBC)	Email from the NET Section, CDI, EDB, to notify schools of the confirmed date Presentation slides (to be submitted 2 weeks before the day of the competition). No changes can be made after this date.

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5. Expectations

- 5.1 Schools are strongly encouraged to send one or preferably two English teachers (one of whom may be the NET) to attend the professional development workshop on public speaking on 11 November 2025.
- 5.2 Teachers will need to:
- attend the online briefing session on 29 September 2025;
 - hand out and collect parental consent forms for the NET Section to take images of students for later possible use for educational purposes and for uploading to the Internet;
 - participate fully in all public speaking activities at the professional development workshop;
 - use what they have learnt to prepare their students for the competition;
 - facilitate the development of the speech and ongoing training of students;
 - organise a Round 1; and
 - make arrangements with the NET Section for prize collection within 2 months after the competition.
- 5.3 Students will need to:
- participate fully in any training sessions organised by their teachers in preparation for the competition;
 - participate in Round 1 of the competition; and
 - take part in the competition by giving a public speech, in a team of 2 – 4, for 3 – 4 minutes.

6. Conditions of Entry

- 6.1 The deadline for submission of entry forms is **2 December 2025**.
- 6.2 The briefing session will provide teachers with competition details and regulations. Schools entering the competition should send at least one teacher to attend the briefing session.
- 6.3 There will be a workshop on teaching public speaking. If you have attended previously, there is no need to attend again unless you wish to. Please refer to the EDB Training Calendar System (TCS) for **online application**.
- 6.4 Schools may request school support from the RNCT, NET Section. The RNCT will offer different types of support, including consultation sessions and school-based teacher training workshops whenever appropriate.
- 6.5 Permission from parents/guardians for the use of images must be obtained by schools. The soft copy of the Time to Talk 2025/26 Use of Images Permission Form will be provided for schools to use (e.g. schools can use the Form as is or copy the clause from the Form to an electronic parents' letter template to facilitate collection).

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7. Topics

7.1 Schools must choose one of the following topics. The topic may be the same or different for Rounds 1 and 2. The stimulus is presented in the form of a song. There is no need to use the lyrics in the speech. It is advised to view suitable music videos which may help the students gain a greater understanding of the mood of the song.

- **Primary Division:**

A Whole New World (ZAYN and Zhavia Ward from 'Aladdin')

Believe (Aloe Blacc from 'The Rescue')

Hero (Mariah Carey)

I Have a Dream (ABBA)

Own choice selection (to be sent to the NET Section prior to the Finals for acceptance)

- **Secondary Division:**

A Whole New World (ZAYN and Zhavia Ward from 'Aladdin')

Adventures of a Lifetime (Coldplay)

Fight Song (Rachel Platten)

The Climb (Miley Cyrus)

Own choice selection (to be sent to the NET Section prior to the Finals for acceptance)

7.2 Teams must show evidence of research for their speeches. Reference should be made to the reading that teams completed to support their ideas (e.g. fiction, non-fiction or informational texts which were read).

7.3 Resources used for their research must be cited in the presentation (e.g. slides in PDF format).

7.4 Teachers are expected to encourage their students to research the topic as thoroughly as possible by reading and viewing relevant materials.

8. Student Participants

8.1 Primary and secondary schools may enter up to two teams in the finals.

8.2 When schools enter two teams, it is possible that each team will compete on a different day.

8.3 The team can be made up of students from any year level or a combination of year levels.

8.4 A student can only be entered in one team/entry.

9. Presentations in Round 2 (Finals)

9.1 All teams must be comprised of 2 - 4 students.

9.2 The speech must be 3 - 4 minutes.

9.3 Small props and simple costumes are allowed if they significantly contribute to the speech.

9.4 Teams should ensure they have a balanced performance i.e. if students decide to sing or include a short role-play, this should not take a significant amount of time nor take away from the message being conveyed.

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- 9.5 Students should present their speech with some slides in PDF format to accompany what they are saying. This should be done in the context of the group speech. The slides should be static rather than animated or should not contain any moving images. Non-copyright music **is** allowed if it significantly contributes to the speech.
- 9.6 A title slide should be included at the beginning of the deck stating the name of the school, Team A or Team B and the names of the participating students.
- 9.7 Cue cards and devices are allowed with minimal words but students are strongly advised to be familiar with the material.
- 9.8 A bell will be rung once to signal the beginning of the students' speech.
- 9.9 Teams must have a teacher or student to control the IT equipment. This team member will not be awarded a certificate.

10. Adjudication

- 10.1 For Round 1, the judging panel must comprise at least two adjudicators. For the finals, there will be at least two representatives from the EDB and outside organisations.
- 10.2 The decision of the judging panel will be considered final. No correspondence will be entered into after the results have been announced.
- 10.3 Student speeches will be assessed on the criteria below. The judging panel will also look at the overall impact of the combination of these criteria.

A. Use of spoken English	intelligibility, fluency, stress, intonation, range of vocabulary, grammar, signposting
B. Use of voice	expression of emotions, voice projection/audibility, pace, pitch, pause
C. Content	ideas, structure, examples, evidence of research skills, entertainment value
D. Presentation style	awareness of audience, gesture, eye contact, ingenuity of delivery
E. Use of IT	connection to presentation, written English, selection of images (if applicable)
F. Teamwork	meaningful interaction among all students in the team, fair distribution of content, smooth turn taking

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11. Awards and Certificates

Awards and certificates will be given as below:

Team awards and prizes for Finals:	
1 st Prize	Book coupons + team trophy + certificates
2 nd Prize	Book coupons + team trophy + certificates
3 rd Prize	Book coupons + team trophy + certificates
Merit	Book coupons + team trophy + certificates
Merit	Book coupons + team trophy + certificates
Other:	
Every team member in the non-winning teams	e-Certificate of Participation
Awards and prizes for Round 1:	
Individual trophies will be provided for schools to present to students subject to availability . Schools will be able to receive a maximum of 12 trophies for Round 1: four 1 st place trophies, four 2 nd place trophies and four 3 rd place trophies.	
Every team member in the non-winning teams	Certificate of Participation (provided for schools to issue certificates – schools to assign names)

12. Reminder of Submission of Entry and Forms

Deadline	Related Document
On or before 2 December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A scanned copy (PDF) of the completed entry form can be uploaded to a Google Form: https://forms.gle/ebU7HmTLHPLzjNpQ7
On or before 27 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors' names and confirmation of the number of teams must be submitted through a Google Form. The link of the form will be uploaded to our e-platform (https://nets.edb.edcity.hk/page.php?p=511) later. This soft copy name list will be used to issue the Prize Winners' Certificates and the e-Certificates of Participation. Teachers-in-charge are responsible for the accuracy of the names. Replacement certificates will not be provided to accommodate a subsequent name change.

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April- May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation slides in PDF format have to be submitted 2 weeks before the day of the competition. These will be the slides used on the day of the competition. Please ensure access right settings of the PDF file is set as “Anyone with the link” as “Editor”. • The presentation slides in PDF format will be submitted via a Google Form. The link of the form will be uploaded to our e-platform (https://nets.edb.edcity.hk/page.php?p=511) later. • The name of the PDF file has to include the school name and team (e.g. ABC School_Team A). • Teachers will also need to confirm they have collected permission for the use of images from students’ parents on this Google Form.
June – July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prize Winners’ Certificates and book coupons can be obtained at the NET Section office after a notification email sent to the teachers-in-charge of the winning schools. • e-Certificate of Participation will be emailed to teachers within 1 – 2 months of the completion of the competition.

13. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Mr Craig ROBERTSON (for secondary schools) at 3549 8324 / craigrobertson@edb.gov.hk or Mr Simon ABBOTT (for primary schools) at 3549 8325 / simonabbott@edb.gov.hk.