

Video-Speaking Activity - The Mask Controversy

This speaking exercise will be similar to our previous integrated skills tasks, but with a slightly different approach. **We will watch three short videos about the mask controversy across the English-speaking world** - one American, one British and one Australian. You will get a chance to watch each video twice, but you'll do two different types of exercise after each viewing.

- 1) **Watch the three videos & take notes of the main points**
 - the three videos are related to the mask controversy, but they tackle slightly different aspects of it. **You can pause and repeat any parts you find difficult to follow.** After having watched the three snippets, and having taken notes, **you should try and give a brief report, with a summary of each video's main topic.** You don't need to go into detail, as you're expected to report on the main issues tackled. **Your impressions and opinions are welcome as well, as well as any comparisons with the NYT article we've read and your own knowledge and personal experience.**

ABC7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YmKg2eFE5s>

BBC (first 3 min only): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqd4w8O4RRE>

Today Show Aus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mUI2qXv3XA>

- 2) Now, **we'll focus on specific vocabulary from each video**. You can watch the videos again after going over the specific vocab, and try to get the words as you listen.

ABC7:

- the **trenches** - in the WWI, a connected system of narrow ditches, forming an army's line
- **dock** workers - people who work at the harbours
- at the **onset** of sthing - at the beginning (set on)
- **stringent** rules - strict rules
- to be **smushed up** together - to be compressed together
- **staggered** working hours - arranged so that they do not occur at the same time,
- **to be doomed** to (repeat) something - condemned to

BBC:

- it's becoming more **airborne** - carried (bear- bore borne) through the air
- **mitigate** the risk - make less severe
- activity **ramps up** - increase
- **trade body** for independent shops = The British Independent Retailers Association
- a barrier instead of an **enhancement** = an improvement or increase in quality
- the **run-up** to Christmas - the period preceding

Today Show:

- something written across **the forehead** - something evident
- **sneaky** - furtive, sly, secret
- to be **worlds apart** - to be very different (lit. or metaphorical)
- it's **potluck** - it's a risk
- a **nuanced** decision - subtle difference - need to be better defined?