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Tips for Oral Presentations

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Speaking is a kind of thinking

- Learning how to speak about your work:
 - important for communicating with others, of course!
 - *vital* for **developing your own thinking**
- Oral presentations can be difficult:
 - embrace the *desirable difficulties* that help you learn

Content Strategies

- You will **always** know more than you can talk about
 - Humans can't process data dumps: you'll have to leave lots out
 - Think core ideas + significance of those ideas
 - Significance = not just what you did, but how and why you made key decisions
- You *might* know less than you think (!)
 - Reducing project to core ideas might reveal gaps in understanding
- Strategy: start very small
 - begin by explaining what you need to explain in *half the time* you've been given

Delivery Strategies

- Reading a script can feel tempting, *but...*
 - Reading keeps your voice pointed away from your audience
 - Reading means you miss out on important information
 - We speak *very differently* than we write: it's often hard to follow speech that is actually writing in disguise
- **Strategy: start by recording yourself speaking about project**
 - Develop speaking notes from this recording/transcript

Behavioural Strategies

- Our bodies misbehave *all the time*
 - No one notices as much as you will notice
 - Practice will help
- We all have habits and comfort zones
 - Habits: speaking quickly (English is so sloooooow!)
 - Comfort zones: eye contact feels...awkward
- Strategy: pick one habit or comfort zone, and explore with curiosity and patience

Join us for a practice session!