

VTE Teacher Training Course Two

Speaking Exercise

Read the passage below to your partner, following instruction 1. Take some constructive feedback from your partner and then reverse roles. Repeat for the other instructions from 2 through to 8. It may be helpful to take notes.

“The Krishna consciousness movement is essential in human society, for it offers the highest perfection of life. How this is so is explained fully in the Bhagavad-gita. Unfortunately, mundane wranglers have taken advantage of Bhagavad-gita to push forward their demonic propensities and mislead people regarding right understanding of the simple principles of life. Everyone should know how God, or Krishna, is great, and everyone should know the factual position of the living entities. Everyone should know that a living entity is eternally a servant and that unless one serves Krishna one has to serve illusion in different varieties of the three modes of material nature and thus wander perpetually within the cycle of birth and death; even the so-called liberated Mayavadi speculator has to undergo this process. This knowledge constitutes a great science, and each and every living being has to hear it for his own interest.”

Bhagavad-gita As It Is, Preface

1. Read in a monotone and lazy fashion.
2. Read with clarity, pronouncing all syllables very, very c-l-e-a-r-l-y.
3. Read with clarity, but concentrate on varying the speed (especially reading slowly and deliberately but also speeding up where appropriate)
4. As above, but concentrate on putting feeling into your talk, and varying the inflection of your voice.
5. As above, but concentrate on inserting pauses
6. Read with clarity (and other useful features) but concentrate on doing this with volume (as if speaking to 300 people in an auditorium). Project your voice powerfully. (Its best your partner stand some distance away)
7. Read softly, gently and reassuringly, as if to a child about to take rest.
8. Read it in what you consider an ideal fashion (as if we were back in the classroom)