

TV interview in popular science programme

Pre-task:

Agree on a recent public debate related to your field, such as the association of burnt toast with cancer, or issues of climate change. Read both some newspaper articles and web content including reader comments. Make a list of commonly held opinions and frequent concerns regarding the issue. Exchange the lists and look up vocabulary as required.

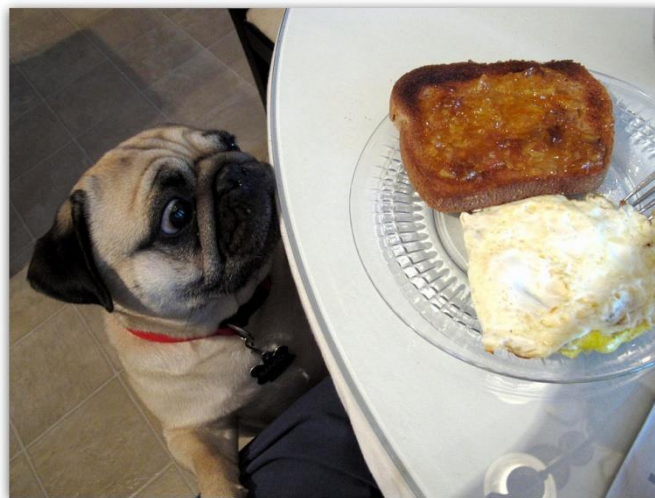


Image 1

Task 1:

Role play: TV interview. One of you takes on the role of the TV host or documentary presenter and the other the role of the expert. The TV host introduces the topic and then interviews the expert on the topic. The expert acknowledges the concern and explains facts or current research findings.

As a model, you can look at an episode from an actual TV show on a science topic, such as [Horizon](#) or [Sunday Morning Live](#) episode on a suitable topic.

Interviewer/TV host:	Interviewee/Expert:
Introducing the topic: The subject/topic today is ... We are going to talk about ... Today we are concerned with ... It has been suggested/claimed that ... Recent research seems to show that ... The discovery of ... has raised a lot of concern.	Positive answer: I can confirm ... This is a valid concern. Certainly.
Questions: Listeners are worried that ... Should they? Could you clarify whether ...	Refuting a misconception: I would not quite put it like that. There is no/little evidence to suggest that ... This aspect may be a little overrated. There is another side to this. It doesn't necessarily mean that ...

How certain is it that ...	That's only true up to a point.
Is there agreement regarding ...	
Could further research disprove the view that ...	Clarifying a point:
...	What I wanted to draw attention to is ...
How did scientists prove that ...	For example ...
How do these findings relate to the fact that ...	What I meant was ...
	Let's look at it this way: ...
Asking for clarification:	
Can you give an example?	
What does that mean in real terms?	
What does this mean for ...?	
Why is this important?	
To put it another way: ...	
Simply put: ...	
In other words: ...	

Task 2:

Debate the issue with a representative of a pressure group or lobbyist, e.g. a climate change denier; a public health campaigner. One of you takes on the role of the lobbyist or campaigner, the other the role of the expert.

Sources

- Image 1 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/geraldbrazell/6892866040>
 Link 1 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mgxf>
 Link 2 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0126f45>