

Integrated Speaking Practice (Campus-related): Passage, Conversation,
and Question

Directions: State University plans to build a new auditorium. Read an article about the plan in the campus newspaper. You have 45 seconds to read the article. Begin reading now.

University to Build New Auditorium

The university has decided to demolish the old campus auditorium and replace it with a new one. The auditorium is one of the oldest original buildings on campus, and administrators say it is showing signs of its age: sagging floors, peeling paint, a drafty interior, and outdated decor. The new auditorium, by contrast, will have a clean, modern appearance. Also, the old auditorium is too small to accommodate the number of current students. The new auditorium will be bigger, with a greater number of seats to accommodate a larger student body.

Directions: Read the transcript

Narrator Now listen to two students discussing the article.

Male student I wish they wouldn't do this.

Female student Really? But the place is so old...

Male student Yeah, but I like that. I think it's a nice, historic-looking building.

Female student Hmm ... well, I guess it's kinda pretty...

Male student It's an important part of the university's history. It was one of the first things built on campus...we should preserve that ... not get rid of it.

Female student That's a good point. But what about the need for an expansion?

Male student I don't think it's necessary.

Female student But it was built when the university was so much smaller.

Male student That's true, but think about it: have you ever seen the space completely full?

Female student Well ... uh, no, I guess not.

Male student Me either. There are never any events when the entire student body is there. In fact, there are usually just a small number of students in the audience for a play or a concert.

Female student That's true.

Male student So why make it bigger, if it works as-is?

Female student I see what you mean.

Directions: Give yourself 30 seconds to prepare your response to the following question. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.

The man expresses his opinion of the university's plan. State his opinion, and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds