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Subject: AECC English

TOPIC: Monologue/Dialogue

- A monologue, as the term suggests, is an oral communication which is conveyed by one person, or it may also be a long one-sided conversation. The Greek origin of the word means “speaking alone” in the sense when one person does all the talking.
- It can be said that when a speaker monopolizes any conversation because of his or her ideas and knowledge or for any other reason which puts him or her in a privileged position of making others listen to her or him, then it is a monologue. Usually it is thought that monologue is boring in nature as it is a kind of communication when the person speaking is in some way superior to the listeners – either in age, or in rank, or in knowledge, etc.; but it is not always true.
- As a monologue is when a single person does all the talking, therefore it is essential that the monologist or the speaker is well prepared, logical, coherent and listener-friendly in what s/he says, otherwise it will tend to be boring. When we speak, it fades away fast; therefore it is important that the speaker keeps in mind that he or she is not very fast and uses vocabulary which is easily understandable and links ideas in such a manner that the listeners find it logical. So the style of expression is of supreme significance for a speaker when s/he is engaging in a monologue.
- Whereas certain occasions make it inevitable that a speaker enters into a monologue; but often the means of communication is dialogue where two or more people take turns to put forward their points of view, along with non-verbal cues, to often reach a conclusion. Think about going for an interview and there you are asked questions on

your subject, on general topics, on your strengths, your career plan, etc. It is a dialogue between you and the panelists in the interview board.

- Dialogues can be of various kinds depending on the context. But what is significant in a dialogue is that each party that enters into the field of communication in a dialogue has the space and time to put forward his or her point of view. In that sense, dialogues are democratic in nature, where individuals get a chance to have their say unlike a monologue where a single person takes over the talking because of his or her privileged position and others are mere receptors of the communication.
- The most important facet of a dialogue is to take turns – that is, the speaker is not always a speaker; but speaks for a while and then lets the other person come up with his or her ideas, queries, responses, etc. Dialogue is a democratic means to come to a conclusion.