# Analysing a speech

*Englisch · Klasse 11 · mittel · Lösungen*

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

*kostenlos, mit Lösungen*

Excerpt (invented, for practice): „Friends, neighbours, fellow students. They tell us we are too young to be heard. They tell us to wait. But how long have we waited? We waited while the river turned brown. We waited while the summers grew hotter. We waited — and they did nothing. Today the waiting ends. Not tomorrow, not next year: today. Look at the person next to you. That is the future. Are we going to let it drown?"

## 1 Structure and situation.

*Speaker - audience - occasion - purpose (to inform, to persuade, to move to action).*

a) Who is speaking to whom, and what is the occasion? Use clues from the text.
*A young person (a student) speaks to fellow students at a climate protest or school assembly; clues: „fellow students", „too young", „river", „summers grew hotter".*

b) What is the speaker's aim? Name the two things the audience is supposed to think or do.
*To persuade the audience that waiting is over and to move them to act now, together.*

c) Divide the speech into three parts and give each a heading.
*e.g. 1 Address and the accusation („they tell us") — 2 The list of what happened while they waited — 3 The call to action („Today the waiting ends … Are we going to let it drown?").*

## 2 Rhetorical devices: Name the device and quote the example.

*Devices are only worth naming if you can also say what they do — see task C.*

a) a group of three (tricolon)
*„Friends, neighbours, fellow students" / „Not tomorrow, not next year: today"*

b) repetition at the beginning of sentences (anaphora) *„They tell us …", „We waited while …"*

c) a rhetorical question *„how long have we waited?", „Are we going to let it drown?"*

d) direct address / imperative *„Look at the person next to you."*

e) a metaphor *„That is the future" / „let it drown" (the future as something that can drown)*

## 3 Effect: Explain the function of two devices from task B in two or three sentences each.

*Pattern: The speaker uses X („quote") in order to _____ This makes the audience feel / realise …*

a) Device 1:
*e.g. The anaphora „We waited while …" builds up a list of failures and makes the audience feel the length and pointlessness of waiting; the repetition sounds like an accusation.*

b) Device 2:
*e.g. The imperative „Look at the person next to you" involves the audience physically and turns an abstract idea (the future) into a real person, which creates responsibility.*

## 4 Write a short analysis (120 to 150 words) of the excerpt.

*Present tense. Quote briefly with line references if possible. No retelling.*

a) Introduction (speaker, audience, aim), structure, two devices with effect, conclusion: is the speech convincing?
*Own text. Check: introduction with speaker/audience/aim, structure in one sentence, two devices with quote and effect, evaluation, present tense, 120 to 150 words.*