

## 3.6 The art of Compering

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### Ice Breakers

#### **(1) Anchoring:**

(Points: has different meanings

(1) securing something firmly;

(2) coordinating a flow of events during any event;

(3) feeling attached or secure.)

#### **(2) Compering:**

(Points: acting as a compere.)

- A compere is a person whose job is to introduce performers in a television, radio or stage show. He/She introduces the programme and the participants; he is the mediator, announcer and coordinator between different events in a programme. He is also called 'The Master of Ceremonies' or MC/emcee, or an anchor.

#### **(3) Hosting Programmes:**

(Points: (1) receiving or entertaining guests in a social or official capacity at events;

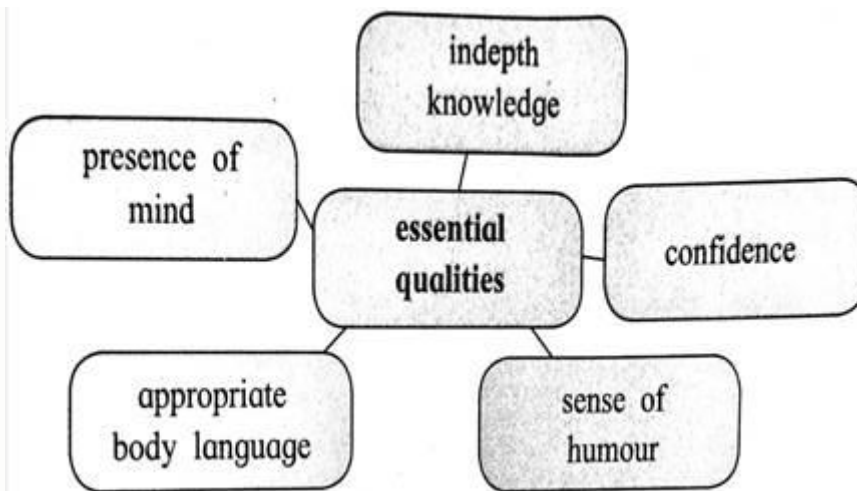
(2) acting as the compere/anchor for some programme.)

#### **(4) Public Speaking:**

(Points also called oratory: (1) a single person speaking to a group;

(2) giving a speech.)

- Go through the following web that highlights the essential qualities of a compere. Discuss with your partner the essential qualities and also the precautions that a compere should take while compering a programme.



**Ans.** (1) While compering, always keep in mind the audience for example, if the audience is made up of professors and teachers, the tone and behaviour should be respectful; if it is your classmates, it can be informal.

(2) Prepare well before the event. The compere must know the flow of the programme, the names of the organizers, office-bearers, guests, etc. At no stage should false information or incorrect facts be given; offensive comments should never be made. The correct pronunciation of the names of the people who are to be introduced/ welcomed/mentioned should be checked.

(3) The clothes and body language should be appropriate for the event. Make a study of the situation beforehand and do not offend the sensibilities of anyone. Also, the compering should be accompanied by graceful gestures, but not to be overdone.

(4) Remember that the compere is not the star of the show, but a person who ensures the smooth movement of the programme. Do not forget to introduce yourself, but do not draw all the attention to yourself; if there are mistakes, apologize immediately and proceed

### **BRAINSTORMING**

**(A1)** Imagine that you wish to organize a cultural event in your college. Prepare your own web-chart to indicate the qualities/essentials that you expect to have in a compere.

**Ans.**

Qualities of a compere for a cultural event :	
→	(1) Good communication skills.
→	(2) Knowledge of the subject.
→	(3) Proper attire.
→	(4) Understanding of the nature and tone of the event.
→	(5) Understanding of the audience, and keeping them interested and responsive.
→	(6) Appropriate body language.
→	(7) Ability to ensure smooth movement of the programme even when there are hurdles.
→	(8) Should have spontaneity, originality and genuineness.

(A2) (i) Imagine that you are a compere of a 'Prize Distribution Ceremony' of your college. Write a script for the same. You can take the help of the following points:

(1) Introduction-A brief introduction of the programme/function/show

(2) Welcome speech-welcome of all the guests; felicitation of the guests (Principal, vice principal, etc.)

(3) Lighting the lamp

(4) Welcome song

(5) Main events

(6) Vote of thanks.

**Ans. (1) Introduction:** Good evening to all present here today on this special occasion. Today is the day we acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and effort put in by so many of our students through the year. Yes, today is the long-awaited 'Prize Distribution Ceremony', the day when we decorate with awards, prizes and medals all those students who have performed par excellence in different fields, shining in academics and sports or even in arts.

**(2) Welcome speech:** On behalf of the Principal, teachers and students of our college, I take pleasure in welcoming our Chief Guests, Mr. Siddharth Nayak and Ms. Urmila Nayak. Welcome Sir, Ma'am. I also warmly welcome all the parents, who have been the backbone of their children's success; without their efforts, we

would never have achieved all that we did during the year. Welcome to one and all, once again.

**(3) Lighting the lamp:** Let us begin this wonderful programme in the traditional Indian way. For this, I request all the honourable members on the dais to kindly light the traditional lamp and offer prayers. Sir, Ma'am, please.

**(4) Welcome song:** Thank you. I request our guests to please take their seats in the auditorium and enjoy the cultural programme. We begin the cultural events for the day with a heartfelt and cheerful welcome song. I invite on stage our star singers, Shilpa, Varsha, Mihir and Yogesh. For musical accompaniment, we have Sumeet on the guitar and Raunak playing the tabla.

**(5) Main events:** (1) A big round of applause, please, for our singers and musicians. Thank you. The next item on our programme is a light one-act play presented by students of Std. XII. I request the audience to maintain complete silence so as not to miss the surprise ending.....

(2) That was indeed a surprise ending! I can see that you have enjoyed this offering by our students. Well, now we go on to the most eagerly awaited part of the programme - the prize distribution. May I request our Chief Guests and the Principal of our college to please step onstage and hand over the prizes to the winners.... Thank you, Sir, Ma'am.

(3) I now request our Chief Guest to address the audience.

(4) Thank you, sir. Your speech has indeed given us wonderful insights on the various aspects and responsibilities of social networking. We are immensely grateful to you for your invaluable words of enlightenment and advice.

(5) We proceed to the next part of the programme. India, as we all know, is a country that has many diverse ways and customs. And where is this more obvious than in the dances of the different states? Yes, we now present a quartet of dances from the east, west, north and south of India. Let us see how it ends! Please give a big hand to welcome the students of Std. XI, presenting the dances.

(6) That was indeed a wonderful performance! Thank you, audience, for your appreciative response.

**Vote of thanks:** Before we conclude this programme I take the opportunity to thank all those who have lent a helping hand to make this Prize Distribution Ceremony a grand success. For the formal vote of thanks I invite our Cultural Secretary, Ms. Seema Pai. I take my leave of you with a big "Thank you". You have indeed been a wonderful audience! Thank you once again.

**(ii) Mass media events often need comperes.**

**Find out the area or sector in which a compere is a must. Write about the special skills needed to take up compering as a career and give some clues about how to acquire these skills.**

**Ans.** These are the areas or sectors where comperes are always in great demand: Showbiz or show business, education sector, retail industry, broadcasting sector, hospitality, event management, and catering business.

Given below are the special skills needed to take up compering as a career.

Thorough knowledge and understanding of various kinds of events, good command over language, pleasant personality, good fashion sense, knowledge of grooming, developing, and maintaining contacts with key people in the events industry, documenting testimonials from credible people.

A compere can acquire these skills by working relentlessly in the following ways:

- i. A professional compere should socialise often and focus on building a network of people.
- ii. It is important for a compere to constantly work on his diction and vocabulary.
- iii. A compere should make occasional courtesy calls to industry professionals.
- iv. A professional compere is expected to rehearse and prepare well for an audition.
- v. Social media profiles of a compere should be updated with the latest and relevant work.
- vi. A compere should document pictures and videos from past events and build a portfolio.
- vii. A compere should groom well and maintain a sharp look at all times.

**(A3) Make a list of functions/events/programmes/activities organized in your junior college. Choose three events and plan a programme schedule of your own. Prepare a script as well to show the associating role of the compere for a particular event. Make your own sequence and design a template for the same.**

**Ans.** Do it your own