

English for Presentations – First Day Activity

Title: Finance Headlines Elevator Pitch

Duration: 60 minutes

Level: Intermediate–Advanced (Finance students)

Objectives:

- Build confidence speaking English in short, structured presentations.
- Practice explaining and commenting on finance topics.
- Identify key elements of a good presentation (clarity, structure, delivery).

Lesson Stages

Stage	Time	Procedure	Materials
1. Welcome & Warm-up	10 min	• Introduce the course purpose. • Ask: “What makes a good presentation?” (pairs + share). • Write ideas on the board.	Whiteboard / projector
2. Mini Input: Elevator Pitch	10 min	• Explain what an elevator pitch is (30–60 seconds summary). • Give a model example. • Discuss key vocabulary and delivery.	Board / slide
3. Main Task: Finance Headlines Elevator Pitch	25 min	• Distribute and display finance headlines. • Students prepare a short (30–60 sec) mini-presentation: – Introduce the topic – Explain why it matters – Give one implication or opinion.	Handout / printed headlines
4. Presentations & Feedback	15 min	• Students present their pitches. • Peers and instructor give feedback using checklist.	Checklist
5. Wrap-up & Reflection	5 min	• Discuss challenges and lessons learned.	—

Student Handout: Finance Headlines Elevator Pitch

Step 1: What makes a good presentation?

In pairs, brainstorm three qualities of a strong presentation in English.

Quality	Why it's important
1.	
2.	
3.	

Step 2: What is an Elevator Pitch?

An elevator pitch is a short, focused presentation—something you could deliver in 30–60 seconds. It should be: Clear, Structured, and Confident.

Example:

“The global shift toward green bonds is creating new opportunities for sustainable investment portfolios. As governments push for decarbonization, investors are reallocating funds to environmentally friendly assets. This trend could redefine risk-return expectations for traditional fixed-income markets.”

Step 3: Your Task

Choose one headline and prepare a 30–60 second mini-presentation explaining:

- What the headline is about
- Why it matters in finance
- One possible implication or opinion

Sample Headlines
Federal Reserve signals possible rate cuts in 2025
AI-driven trading funds outperform traditional benchmarks
Global M&A activity rebounds amid tech sector optimism
ESG investments see record inflows despite market volatility
Oil prices hit \$100 as supply tightens and demand rises

Step 4: Present & Listen

Deliver your mini-presentation. Use the checklist to give peer feedback.

Criteria	Yes / Somewhat / No
Clear structure (intro – body – conclusion)	
Key idea explained simply and accurately	
Delivery confident and natural	
Vocabulary suitable for finance context	
Length appropriate (30–60 seconds)	

Step 5: Reflection

- What was most difficult about presenting in English?
- What strategies helped you stay clear and confident?