**TASK 1:** Use the questions below to hold a conversation with your neighbour.

- Where and when were you born?
- Do you eat meat? Drink alcohol? Smoke?
- Do you think New York would be a nice place to live?
- What kinds of music can calm you down or cheer you up?
- How much do you know about religious education in British schools, and how does this affect your view on whether it is appropriate?
- Based on your experience as a student, what kind of note-taking do you consider to be the most effective?

**TASK 2:** Regarding the questions from Task 1, consider:

a. Which prompted answers with a piece of information that is fixed, and not debatable?

b. Which prompted answers showing one person’s preference or attitude?

c. Which prompted answers explaining how background understanding informs someone’s view on a topic?
**TASK 5a:** What is the difference between the reporting verb used in these two sentences, and why is each one used the way it is?

- Smith *believes* that Chinese will soon overtake English as the most commonly spoken world language.
- Jones *shows* that Spanish is taught in more schools than Chinese is.

**5b:** Which of the following reporting verbs would be used to report an author’s stance, and which would be used to report facts? Why?

*content, remind, indicate, assert, propose, point out, demonstrate, assume*

**5c:** Write four sentences of your own to report 2 facts and 2 stances mentioned in the text excerpt above.