**Written Language vs. Spoken Language**

Hydropower, hydraulic power or water power is power that is derived from the force or energy of moving water, which may be harnessed for useful purposes.

Prior to the widespread availability of commercial electrical power, hydropower was used for irrigation, and operation of various machines, such as watermills, textile machines, sawmills, dock cranes, and domestic lifts.

Hydro-powered electricity is not without its drawbacks: Dam failures can be very hazardous; hydropower can negatively impact both the flow and quality of water; lower levels of oxygen in the water can present a threat to animal and plant life.

Ways of addressing these issues include the installation of fish ladders to ensure safe passage for fish around the area, and regular water aeration to maintain adequate oxygen levels.

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| leave out some information | use shorter sentences | say it in your words |
|  |  |  |
| activate the audience/use of we and you | replace “written” words | add background info where needed |
|  |  |  |
| use more verbs instead of nouns | add structure (firstly, secondly, …) |  |

Today I want to talk about hydropower. We all know that moving water can be powerful. Just remember watching a river in spring or trying to steer a boat against a current. People have used this power for centuries.

Long before electricity was widely available, the power of water made the life of people easier.

Just think of people in Ancient Egypt who used pumps which were operated by the current of the river Nile to water their fields.

Or water mills to grain corn.

And later when all kinds of other machines were driven by the power of water too, like for instance textile machines and sawmills and many others.

You see that up to today, water has played an important role as a renewable source of energy. But these days, generating electricity with the help of water does not come without any disadvantages.

So, for instance, when dams break, this can have a devastating effect for the people living downstream. To give you another example: water in a reservoir – as there is little flow – has lower oxygen levels – and this endangers certain animal and plant species.

But there is something that can be done to avoid negative impacts for plants and animals.

Firstly, dams don’t need to be a huge obstacle for fish. Fish ladders can be installed and make sure that fish can pass safely.

And secondly, to improve the amount of oxygen, the water flow can be aerated when it goes through the turbine. This makes aquatic life downstream of the hydropower plant possible.

**Follow-up:**

1. **Find a piece of written text (4-6 sentences). Choose a topic which is relevant to you study course. Ideally a topic that you have already taken into consideration for your final presentation.**
2. **Analyse the text and locate the parts which need changes when being transferred to spoken language. Underline and label the text and make sure you can talk the others through your ideas.**
3. **And now, it becomes paradox: write down a “speechified” version of the source text and make sure you speak it through. Does it work for you? If yes, fine. If not, you need more changes.**
4. **Practice makes perfect. Say it out loud and make sure you can present it fluently to the other without looking at your notes for too long.**