

Commentary – used in broadcasting, fashion shows, sports events, military parades, state funerals, presentations etc.

Sports commentary

Two types - “play-by-play“
- “colour-adding“ – gives pre-event background, post-event evaluation, and interpretation during the event.

Conversational style, monologue or dialogue.

Reporting of an ongoing activity → use of **present (simple) tense**.

Listener or viewer not specified, not present, no feedback from the audience.

Highly **formulaic style** of presentation – reduces the memory load on the commentator
- helps to achieve **fluency** (provides time to think or follow the action if there are some difficulties)

Starting, scoring etc. formulae.

Silence impossible.

Fluent - keeping up with the **pace of the activity**.

Spontaneous speech in emotive moments, elsewhere little voiced hesitation, false starts etc.

Prosody reflects the **atmosphere and dramatic situations**.

Variety of **speeds of articulation** – both very fast and very slow.

Monotone, loudly (horse-racing) x softly (snooker, chess).

Wide variations in **pitch range** (ball games).

Grammar:

- present tense

- omission of sentence elements

- inverted word order

- extra modifiers (+ relative clauses)

- frequent use of the passive (a play seen before it is possible to identify the player: *The shot is blocked ...by Maldini*).

Discourse:

- cyclical, recurring sequences of activities

- introduction or summary in each cycle