

A Pecha Kucha night

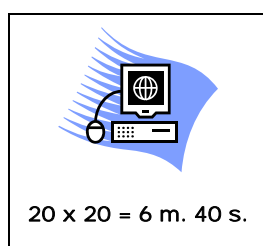
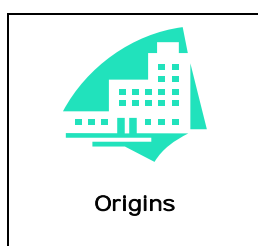
At a recent International Conference, the organisers held a Pecha Kucha night. How has this phenomenon changed the way presentations are given in the business world? Will this be the end of 'death by PowerPoint'?

1 What was the best presentation you have ever seen, and what was the worst?

Why were they so good / bad? Discuss your answer with a partner.

Pecha Kucha: pronounced 'peh-chak-cha'. Source: Wikipedia

2 Look at the presenter's slides. Scan the transcript extracts and sequence the slides in the correct order from 1 to 5.



"Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to this exciting event: a Pecha Kucha night. Such events have so far been held in over 80 cities around the world, and on every continent. More and more businesses are asking employees to give their presentations using this format ..."

"It all began in Tokyo, in 2003, when Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham of Klein – Dytham Architecture devised the first Pecha Kucha event. The name is derived from a Japanese term for the 'sound of conversation'. Tired of the death by PowerPoint syndrome, they created a new approach designed to maintain the level of audience interest and keep presentations concise. A Pecha Kucha night usually involves 14 presentations ..."

"So – what are the rules? Each presenter has 20 slides and 20 seconds per slide. So, every presentation takes 6 minutes and

40 seconds exactly. The presentation is a slideshow, running automatically, so the presenter has no control over when the slides change ..."

"The results can be truly amazing. Gone are the endless bullet points and reading aloud from the screen. In come visuals, or maybe key words. You can speak quickly try and cram it all in; or go at a slow and deliberate pace. Mind you – get the timing wrong and speak for just 15 seconds and those last five seconds can seem like an eternity ..."

"This method of presenting has been described as: 'Get to the PowerPoint!' Ladies and gentlemen, for those of you observing closely, you'll notice that I am actually giving you a Pecha Kucha-style presentation right now... so, er, let me get straight to the point and tell you about tonight's speakers ..."

3 Read the extracts. What do you learn about this method of delivering a presentation? What do you think about it?

4 Identify words in the transcript extracts from their definitions below.

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| (a) invented a method of doing something | (paragraph 2) |
| (b) a set of feelings or actions that are typical in a certain situation | (paragraph 2) |
| (c) expressed in on a few words but in a way that is clear to understand | (paragraph 2) |
| (d) to put things in a space that is too small | (paragraph 4) |
| (e) the speed that something is done | (paragraph 4) |
- (Definitions from or based on Macmillan English Dictionary Ed. 2 (2007) Text © A& C Black)

5 Work alone or in small groups to prepare a Pecha Kucha-style presentation. Plan, practise and then deliver it.