



Table Topics Speaker

Table Topics® is a long-standing Toastmasters tradition, intended to help members develop their ability to organize their thoughts quickly and respond to an impromptu question or topic. While you cannot prepare for a specific Table Topic, you can practice your impromptu speaking skills.

In a club meeting, the Table Topics speaker is asked to speak for 1 minute on a topic you will receive moments before you speak. In a contest the timing is up to 2 minutes.

Generally, the Table Topics Master will read a question or statement to the entire group to contemplate and then call the name of a member to speak on that topic. For example – “do you prefer cake or pie?... and this question goes to Joseph.... Joseph, do you prefer cake or pie?”.

If you are the lucky member chosen for this question, format your thoughts quickly into a mini-speech format with an introduction, body and conclusion before beginning.

A few tips:

1. The timer doesn't start until you address the audience. Take your time to think about the questions (5 seconds of silence is perfectly OK!).
2. Think quickly about your answer and 2 reasons why you think this. This then becomes your introduction and body.
3. Instead of repeating the question as a part of your answer, formulate it into the opening of your speech.
4. Give an example from life! This will help you to speak fluently on something you know.
5. Remember to use vocal variety, gestures and the stage.
6. Watch the timing lights, and use your time! Try to speak up to the RED light!
7. Have fun!!

Some practice questions for you to play with:

- If you could go back in time where and when would you go?
- What is your favourite holiday or season?
- What is the difference between living and existing?
- Which is worse, failing or never trying?
- Would you rather be a domestic or wild animal?
- Would you rather a million dollars or a million days?