

Impromptu Speaking

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Why do those words send a chill down the back of so many people? Impromptu speaking is something that we do every day of our lives unless we are a hermit living in a shack at the top of a mountain.

“Hello, how are you?” Your answer.....impromptu speaking! You haven’t had a chance to practice for this occasion, to choose just the right words to say to this particular person, you just say, “Fine, how are you?”

Now, this may lead to further impromptu conversation or it may not, it depends on how well you know the person, how much time you have to spend, etc.

If you are in the retail business and someone comes up to ask you a question about a product, you answer and there you go, you are doing impromptu speaking!

Many people have said they’d rather be dead than give a speech in public, but how many of these people can talk to 4 or 5 people about something they are really interested in and not feel even a tiny twinge of fear. That is an example of public speaking.

It’s not really all that hard. People just think it is hard. But like anything, it takes practice to do it really well. You may think that you would never be able to speak like some of the motivational speakers you have seen, and you may be right, their style may not suit you. However, that doesn’t mean that you can’t learn to speak in the style that does.

Some people are humorous speakers and have no problem fitting humour into every speech they do, others are technical speakers and learn to present facts and figures in a way that makes people want to listen. Others are story tellers, wrapping their audience up in the tales they tell and still others have a dramatic flair using their gestures to give their audience an idea of what they are talking about.

Just as it is important in internet marketing to find your particular niche or market, so it is in public speaking.

People join Toastmasters and other speaking clubs for a variety of reasons. Some just want to be comfortable standing up in front of a group of people without stuttering and stammering. Others need to be able to deliver speeches and presentations in their daily job. Still others have dreams of becoming a standup comic or a motivational speaker. Each of us has a dream and each of our dreams is different, but we can come together and share these dreams in a safe and nurturing place – a Toastmasters’ Club.

Toastmasters International has developed a very thorough program which will lead you to develop skills in a number of areas such as: vocal variety--using your voice as a tool to engage your audience, speaking softly or loudly, with expression; gestures--using your

body in a way that enhances what you are saying; words--using words that match the level of your audience, not speaking over their heads, or beneath their abilities; organization—how to craft your speech with an opening, a body and a conclusion, how to choose 3 main points to cover so that the audience will retain your message. All these and more are available to you in a Toastmasters Club.

In addition to the lessons you can learn about speaking, there are also opportunities for you to learn leadership skills as you participate in the weekly meetings as a Toastmaster, Table Topics Master, Ah Counter, Quiz Master, Grammarian, etc. These skills are beneficial to anyone in the working world as you learn to listen to others, to really hear what is being said, and you learn to take charge of the group for a short period of time.

If you don't currently belong to a club, but would like to learn more about Toastmasters, you can google your town and the word Toastmasters or you can go to the main Toastmasterswebsite and look for a club near you. You will find many things at a Toastmasters Club, much more than just help with your speaking; you will find friendship and caring and people who want to help you be the best that you can be.