

## SPEAK ENGLISH NOW PODCAST

### 004: Toastmasters, an excellent to practice your speaking

Hi, everyone!

I'm Georgiana, founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://www.SpeakEnglishPodcast.com). My mission is to help YOU speak English fluently.

In this episode:

- I will show you one of the best ways to practice your English in your city.
- After that, I will read to you a short story to help you with your speaking skills. You'll see how fun it is to practice with this audio.

Ok, let's get started.

Imagine for a moment that I can show you the perfect activity for practicing your English by listening and speaking, meeting interesting people, learning interesting topics...and developing your public speaking skills .

All of this in your own city.

Sounds interesting huh? Well, if you live in a city, chances are that you can find the perfect place for that. It's called Toastmasters.

Toastmasters are non-profit educational organization that helps people to develop their public speaking. There are more than 15.000 clubs around the world and more than 340.000 members.

In almost every city you can find a club.

So, what happens in a Toastmasters club? Usually, once a week they have a session. Sometimes is twice a month. In every session, members of the club give speeches in front of an audience. A typical session can have about 3 or 4 prepared

speeches. After each speech, there's another member of the club that gives a short evaluation about the previous speech. This way, everybody can learn and improve.

After the prepared speeches, there's a very interesting and sometimes frightening section called Table Topics. This is how it works: A member of the club presents a situation, and then a volunteer of the audience has to give a short 2 minutes impromptu speech. Impromptu means improvisation.

This seems frightening because you are in front of an audience and you have to improvise what to say, but it's usually fun and it's an excellent activity if you want to get out of your comfort zone.

The main goal of a Toastmasters club is to provide a safe and nice environment for developing your public speaking skills. The best of it is that many clubs are only in English or bilingual. This means that you can practice your English in one of those clubs.

Of course, it's an excellent way to meet interesting people, not only from your country, but also from all around the world. Toastmasters clubs usually have members from different countries.

I used to be a member of a Toastmaster club, and the experience was very rewarding! I improved my public speaking skills, I learned about fascinating topics and I met very interesting people.

My recommendation for you is that you look for a Toastmaster club in your city, and just go to a session as a guest. If you like it, then you can think about becoming a member.

## **POINT OF VIEW** **(improve your grammar)**

Ok, let's move on to the next section.

Here I'll use the Point of View Technique. The main benefit of this technique is that it'll help you to learn grammar intuitively, without boring exercises or memorizing rules.

This is how it works: I will tell you a short story more than one time. Every time, I will change a grammar point. For example, I can change the tense or the person. This way, you will intuitively recognize the changes.

Ok, let's start:

*Paul's friend recommended him to visit a Toastmasters Club in the city. Paul was a bit hesitant, because a public speaking club seemed intimidating. However, he thought it would be a good opportunity to practice his English, meet new people and get out of his comfort zone.*

*He sent an email to the club to arrange a visit as a guest. When the day came, he got to the club on time. The session began. He saw that one of the members conducted all the session. The first part was three prepared speeches. The first speech title was: "Managing your time"; the second one was: "What you can learn from waiting at the airport" and the third one was: "Be your own doctor". The speeches were fun, entertaining and informative.*

*After each speech, there was an evaluation performed by another member of the club. It was constructive and positive feedback that helped the speaker to improve.*

*The second section was different. It was the Table Topics. A guy presented the topic: "Imagine you are the president of the United States and you have to tell on TV there's been contact with aliens".*

*Paul was one of the volunteers and, although it was frightening, he had a lot of fun.*

*After the meeting, Paul met some of the members at a bar near the club location. It was a perfect end for that exciting day.*

Very good! Now let's switch to the present tense. Although this is not the tense used for telling stories, we can practice it here.

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*He sends an email to the club to arrange a visit as a guest. When the day comes, he gets to the club on time. The session begins. He sees that one of the members conducts all the session. The first part is three prepared speeches. The first speech title is: "Managing your time"; the second one is: "What you can learn from waiting at the airport" and the third one is: "Be your own doctor". The speeches are fun, entertaining and informative.*

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Ok, this is the end of this short lesson. As you can see, just by changing a point of view of the story you can learn grammar intuitively. Today, we have practiced the past and the present in the third person.

The Point of View is one of the techniques that I use in my courses. I recommend you to take a look at:

[Courses.SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://Courses.SpeakEnglishPodcast.com)

Ok, this is the end of this episode. Remember to listen to it several times because it'll help you with your English.

See you next week and have a nice day!

Goodbye!

