

Humorously Speaking

1. Warm Up Your Audience

Objectives

- Prepare a speech that opens with a humorous story
- Personalize the story
- Deliver the story smoothly and effectively
- Time: 5-7 minutes

2. Leave Them with a Smile

Objectives

- Prepare a serious speech that opens and closes with a humorous story.
- Prepare a closing story that reemphasizes the speech's main point.
- Deliver the stories smoothly and effectively
- Time: 5-7 minutes

3. Make Them Laugh

Objectives

- Prepare a speech that opens and closes with humorous stories
- Include jokes in the speech body to illustrate points or maintain audience interest
- Deliver the jokes and stories smoothly and effectively
- Time: 5-7 minutes

4. Keep Them Laughing

Objectives

- Prepare a speech that opens with a self-deprecating joke.
- String together two or three related jokes in the speech body.
- Close the speech with a humorous story.
- Time: 5-7 minutes

5. The Humorous Speech

Objectives

- Use exaggeration to tell a humorous story.
- Entertain the audience.
- Effectively use body language and voice to enhance the story.
- Time: 5-7 minutes

Friedhelm W Maur, DTM

Pudong Toastmasters Club



I joined TM in 2001 in Germany when we started the "Hannover Speakers TMC".

I have spent 8 years to accomplish my DTM in 2009 so 8 years. I could have done it earlier but my work schedule did not allow me to do too many manual speeches at some times.

I think the member structure in China is quite different from US or Europe. In the US and Europe, the members are a lot older when they come to TM and they stay much longer when they become a member. In China people are quite young when they join and they do not stay too long. They do some speeches and think they have improved so they move on or change job and go to other locations. They have achieved their goal. Some make it to CC and some continue. But I am sure if you look at the time how long members are members of the club it would reveal a great difference and hence it results in less AC...

We in Pudong TMC bought all the AC manuals when I was VPE and I think this should be the standard for all clubs so beginning members can look at the AC manuals. If the club cannot afford it, maybe the Area or Division can buy a set and make available to the clubs on occasions....

Q: Why did you choose this manual?

A: I thought I'm not very humorous so I wanted to improve this part of my public speaking skills. Also I always tried to choose one easy manual and one challenging manual for each step so this was the challenging manual.

Q: How did you find the topic and content? Can you give an example?

A: I found topics in normal life by noticing items or scenes that got laughs or were funny in parts. For example I gave one speech on flight delays and bad airline food in China which was a great topic to exaggerate on. Another topic I used was on Chinglish which you see daily on the street if you walk around with open eyes and it was very successful.

Q: What are the challenges you've encountered? How did you resolve them?

A: I encountered many challenges. I started the manual first in Germany and gave up. I started again in Shanghai. Specially on the topics for the speeches and suitable jokes that are not from the internet and known to all. The manual suggests to start a Humor file which can be helpful if you find humorous items in daily life. You can just write it down and use it later if suitable. If you tell a story to your friends or family and they laugh about it, it can be suitable for a speech...

I also participated in the Humorous Speech Contest which kept me going in the process of the manual as I had to come up with speeches for the contest.

Q: What have you learned after you've accomplished the manual?

A: I'm more relaxed to do and use humor items in a speech or daily conversation or to try it in daily life. I personally like to play on words that have double meaning. This is different in each language though...

Susan Zhou, DTM

China Advanced Toastmasters Club

Susan Zhou joined Toastmasters in the end of 2005. She has served as Club President of 3 clubs, sponsored 4 clubs in different cities, served as Area and Division Governor. Her experience in Toastmasters is in <http://newtmc.blog.sohu.com>.

An MBA and CIPT (Certified International Professional Trainer), Susan Zhou has over 10 years rich experience in Marketing and Sales, Customer Service, Training, Human Resource Management, as well as new Business Development for new corporation and business.



Delivering AC Manual projects is an adventure to explore the unknown. My journey in the Advanced Speech has helped me to keep my desire and learn more, discover my potential and reach higher!

After I accomplished my CC Manual, I selected my first AC manual: Humorously Speaking. I have two reasons: First, I wanted to have fun. Everyone says that Humor can release the tension; Second reason, I wanted to be welcomed by others. People like to laugh and it make things go smoothly.

Now, I have 3 discoveries:

1. Humor is everywhere!

Recall those moments that made you laugh; Asks yourself, why it makes you laugh. You will find many interesting resources of Humor.

Our great Chairman Mao used to say,与人斗其乐无穷“Fight with people, Joy endless”. The humor usually lies in the contrast relationships. Such as man vs. woman, boss vs. subordinates, customer vs. service people.

Humor is everywhere. It is at your home, at your work, and anywhere you go. We usually neglect the people besides us. While preparing the advanced speeches, you can use different view and aspects to find the hidden Humor.

2. Humor is also an attitude.

People love to feel superior; no one will laugh if everything is perfect. So the resources for humor usually are: quarrels, complains, mistakes and failures.

Think about the latest misfortune you have had. What is the situation? What's your feeling? While you could be embarrassed, annoyed or sad, you can always choose another attitude: Laugh at it! 浮云，神马都是浮云 Gone with the wind!

Humor is an attitude. It can help you to be happier and more influential!

3. Humor is also a process.

It took me less than 1 year to breed my baby, but 4.5 years to get first true laughter from the audience of national speaking contest this October in Beijing!

Suddenly, I realized: Humor is not the skills to learn overnight, Humor is a continuous learning process. When I am the speaker, I learn; When I am the audience, I also learn; When I succeed, I learn; When I fail, I also learn. The reward is not necessary the destination, but is actually the experience through the journey.