



The Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC)

The ASC is a nationwide organisation where you can learn to speak with confidence among friends.

By joining you will take the first step on a great journey. Few skills will impact on your life as positively as learning to speak in public.

You could make a better business presentation, give a speech at a wedding or a birthday, chair a meeting, propose a toast, say what you mean at work, or give a vote of thanks – in fact make any kind of speech you want. Learning to speak in public is a way of building your self confidence personally, at work and socially.

Speakers Clubs are fun, friendly and made up of people just like you. Together we can help you conquer your fears and achieve your goals. Your public speaking development will be at a pace that you dictate and you can enjoy yourself at the same time!

What is the ASC

The Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC) was formed in 1972 and now has some 120 Clubs throughout the UK with about 1600 members.

The ASC exists to promote effective speaking, communication, and the conduct of meetings. It is a non-profit making organisation uniting groups of individuals into Clubs.

The ASC sets standards which Club members aim to attain in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, produces resources to enable members to practice the techniques of effective communication and runs speaking competitions.

What we Do

The Association of Speakers Club is a mutual self-help organization where groups of people come together to help to support each other to gain confidence and learn a valuable life skill while having some fun. Anyone who comes along to one of our Clubs and hopes to learn how to be an effective speaker and help others to be an effective speaker will be delighted with the outcome. That person will be given the opportunity, the support, the knowledge and the feedback in a relaxed friendly environment which is the most efficient way to become an effective speaker. It does not happen overnight but it does work.

Our System Works because there is no substitute for experience gained by having a go, gaining feedback and absorbing experience by watching and listening to others.

We use a ten-stage programme following our Speakers Guide which provides a framework for the educational development of members. The Guide is issued to every member who joins the ASC and gives advice on how to improve one's skills in public speaking from the earliest stage through to advanced performance. This programme has been proven to work over many years but is totally flexible and means that new members are able to move at a pace they find most suitable.

The programme will cover the following skills:

Making a Start - your first speech

Mean What You Say - speak with sincerity, conviction and persuasiveness

Speech Construction - master the art of arranging what you want to say in a logical and consistent manner

Use of Gestures - learn to use your hands, face and whole body to improve your effectiveness as a speaker



Use Your Voice - develop good voice modulation. The voice is a speaker's most powerful weapon

Vocabulary and Word Pictures - emphasise your message by careful choice of vocabulary and word pictures

The Use of Notes - learn to write suitable notes that do not intrude or interrupt the flow of the speech

The Use of Humour - helps you to explore different types of humour, allowing you to develop a style that fits your character

Audience Rapport - what all speakers are aiming to achieve

The Masterpiece - this completes a speaker's basic training, demonstrating all the skills that have been developed along the way

You will also have the opportunity to learn the skills involved in chairing a meeting, impromptu speaking, evaluating other speakers and entering various competitions should you wish to do so.

Comments from members:

"It is the best activity of my whole life"

"Now I can talk in any situation"

"It helped me to overcome my stammer"

"Speakers Club helped me get promotion"

"Since coming to Speakers Club I earn part of my living by giving lectures"

Why Join?

To speak with confidence is the basic answer - but that means different things to different people. Being able to speak with confidence in public is something that almost anyone can do - given regular practice and expert advice and support. Oh, and a friendly and supportive atmosphere helps too!

Do you

- Feel panic if you are asked to speak out loud?
- Feel too shy to put your point of view?
- Want to improve your personal confidence and communication skills?
- Need to speak as part of your job?
- Have to speak at a function, such as make a wedding speech?
- Have to face that job interview?
- Need to speak at any social or business occasion?
- Already have an interest in speaking?
- Just feel you'd like to try it?

If the answer to any of these is 'YES' then why not come along and visit us? Visitors are always welcome - come for a night out and see what we do - take part if you wish, but we will not pressurise you. The Association of Speakers Clubs may be for you!

Our members are men and women who have a range of speaking skills, from experienced professionals to nervous beginners. Frequent opportunities to speak within the club will definitely help anyone who joins to overcome problems and build confidence. You will be guided by experienced speakers who were also once in the position that you are and are keen to pass on their skills and help others overcome their fears.

Comments from members:

“I have made so many new friends”

“I would recommend it to anyone who has ever wanted to speak in public but has been too terrified to do so”



Benefits of Membership

If speaking in public is one of your worst fears, then the ASC can help you. Speaking and presenting effectively to an audience, whatever the occasion, at work or socially or just to boost your confidence, is a skill that can be learned.

We can help you to gain the confidence you need to improve your speaking skills.

We know that the help we give, through well structured programmes giving members the opportunity to practice in a non-threatening supportive environment, works.

Today:

“ I have never felt so terrified in my life; the thought of having to give a presentation at work fills with so much fear and dread. I wish there was some way I could get out of it, perhaps if I rang in sick....? Deep down though, I want to do it if only I can overcome those nerves, the dry mouth and the quickening heartbeat. I want to be anyone but me on the day. I never again want to feel so terrified in my life....”

Tomorrow:

“ It took me 6 months to pluck up the courage to go along to a Speakers Club. I have never looked back. Yes, I still get nervous but I have learned to control those nerves and know that I can do it. I have the confidence to stand up and speak in whatever situation I find myself in, whether at work giving a presentation, or any social occasion. I have acquired other skills as well including chairmanship. I can thoroughly recommend the ASC... ”

How to Join the ASC

The easiest way is to look on our website to find a club that is nearest to you. Our website address is www.the-asc.org.uk. On the home page you will see a UK map where you can click the appropriate region. When you do this you will see an enlarged map of the district. Simply click the name of a Club near you and you will get the contact details.

Telephone or e-mail the club and you will be given details and invited to come to a meeting. Everyone will be delighted to greet you!

For those of you who do not have access to our website at home you should be able to go on-line at your local Library.

