

When you are the

GENERAL EVALUATOR

The general evaluator is just what the name implies—an evaluator of anything and everything that takes place throughout the meeting. The responsibilities are large, but so are the rewards. The general evaluator is responsible to the Toastmaster who will introduce you; at the conclusion of the evaluation segment of the meeting, you will return control to him or her. You are responsible for the evaluation team, which consists of the timer, grammarian, ah counter, and table topics evaluator if your Club has one. The usual procedure is to have one evaluator for each major speaker, but this is not necessary. You are free to set up any procedure you wish, but each evaluation should be brief, yet complete. Methods for conducting the evaluation sessions are limitless. Review the *Effective Speech Evaluation* manual for ideas.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- Check with the Toastmaster to find out how the program will be conducted and if there are any planned deviations from the usual meeting format. Remember, always be ready when the meeting starts.
- Call all of the evaluators to brief them on their job and to tell them whom they're evaluating and what evaluation format you will be using. Suggest each evaluator call his or her speaker to talk over any special evaluation requirements suggested in the manual for the speech.
- During the briefing, emphasize that evaluation is a positive, helping act. As conscientious Toastmasters, their goal must be to help fellow Toastmasters develop their skills. Emphasize that evaluations should preserve or at least enhance the self-esteem of the speaker.
- Call the remaining members of the evaluation team to remind them of their assignments.
- Prepare a brief but thorough talk on the purpose, techniques, and benefits of evaluation (for the benefit of the guests). Evaluation is a positive experience designed to help people overcome weak habits and add power to good ones.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MEETING

- Insure the individual evaluators have the speaker's manual and understand the project objectives and how to evaluate it.
- Greet all evaluators who are present. If an evaluator is not

present, consult with the Vice President Education and arrange for a substitute.

- Verify each speaker's time and notify the timer.
- Sit near the back of the room to allow yourself full view of the meeting and its participants.

DURING THE MEETING

- Take notes on everything that happens (or doesn't but should). For example: Is the Club's property (trophies, banner, educational material, etc.) properly displayed? If not, why? Were there unnecessary distractions that could have been avoided? Create a checklist from which you can follow the meeting. Did the meeting, and each segment of it, begin and end on time?
- Cover each participant on the program. Look for good and unacceptable examples of preparation, organization, delivery, enthusiasm, observation, and general performance of duties. Remember, you are not to reevaluate the speakers, though you may wish to add something the evaluator may have missed.
- Before table topics, you will be asked to stand and brief the audience on your team's means and methods of evaluation. Describe what way and how your team will handle evaluations.
- Identify the grammarian, ah counter, and timer. Have these members briefly state the purpose of their jobs.
- Request the "Word of the Day," if your Club has one, from the grammarian.
- When introduced to conduct the evaluation phase of the meeting, go to the lectern and introduce each evaluator. After each recitation, thank the evaluator for his or her efforts.
- If the Toastmaster neglected to call for the timer's report and vote for "Best Speaker" (if your Club has this award), do it before individual evaluations are given.
- Wrap up by giving your general evaluation of the meeting, using the notes you took as suggested above. You may wish to comment on the quality of evaluations. Were they positive, upbeat, helpful? Did they point the way to improvement?

RESOURCES

Chairman (Catalog No. 200)

Effective Speech Evaluation (Catalog No. 202)

When you are an

EVALUATOR

After every prepared speech, the speaker receives an evaluation. After you have presented a few speeches, you will be asked to serve as an evaluator and will evaluate one of the prepared speakers for the meeting. In addition to your oral evaluation, you also will give the speaker a written evaluation using the guide in the manual. The evaluation you present can make the difference between a worthwhile or a wasted speech for your speaker. The purpose of the evaluation is to help the speaker become less self-conscious and a better speaker. This requires that you be fully aware of the speaker's skill level, habits, and mannerisms, as well as his or her progress to date. If the speaker uses a technique or some gesture that receives a good response from the audience, tell the speaker so he or she will be encouraged to use it again.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- Review carefully the Effective Speech Evaluation manual which you received in your New Member Kit.
- Talk with the speaker to find out the manual project he or she will be presenting. Review the goals of the speech and what the speaker hopes to achieve. Find out exactly which skills or techniques the speaker hopes to strengthen through the speech.
- Evaluation requires careful preparation if the speaker is to benefit. Study the project objectives as well as the evaluation guide in the manual. Remember, the purpose of evaluation is to help people develop their speaking skills in various situations, including platform presentations, discussions, and meetings. Achievement equals the sum of ability and motivation. By actively listening and gently offering useful advice, you motivate members to work hard and improve. When you show the way to improvement, you've opened the door to strengthening their ability.

WHEN YOU ENTER THE MEETING ROOM

- Look for the speaker and get his or her manual.
- Meet briefly with the general evaluator to confirm the evaluation session format. Then confer with the speaker one last time to see if he or she has any specific things for you to watch for during the talk.

DURING THE MEETING

- Record your impressions of the speech in the manual along with your answers to the evaluation questions. Be as objective as possible. Remember that good evaluations may give new life to discouraged members and poor evaluations may dishearten members who tried their best. Remember, always leave the speaker with specific methods for improving.
- When introduced, stand and give your oral evaluation. Begin and end your evaluation with a note of encouragement or praise. Though you may have written lengthy responses to manual evaluation questions, don't read the questions or your responses. Your oral evaluation time is limited. Don't try to cover too much in your talk—possibly one point on organization, one on delivery, and one on attainment of purpose with a statement about the greatest asset and a suggestion for future improvement.
- Praise a successful speech and specifically tell why it was successful. Don't allow the speaker to remain unaware of a valuable asset such as a smile, a sense of humor, or a good voice. Don't allow the speaker to remain ignorant of a serious fault or mannerism; if it is personal, write it but don't mention it aloud. Give the speaker the deserved praise and tactful suggestions in the manner you would like to receive them when you are the speaker.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Return the manual to the speaker. Add a verbal word of encouragement to the speaker, something that wasn't mentioned in the oral evaluation.

RESOURCE

Effective Speech Evaluation (Catalog No. 202), included in your New Member Kit

When you are the

AH COUNTER

The purpose of the ah counter is to note words and sounds used as a “crutch” or “pause filler” by anyone who speaks during the meeting. Words may be inappropriate interjections such as “and, well, but, so, you know.” Sounds may be “ah, um, er.” You also should note when a speaker repeats a word or phrase such as “I,I” or “This means, this means.”

PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- Prepare a brief explanation of the duties of the ah counter for the benefit of guests.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MEETING

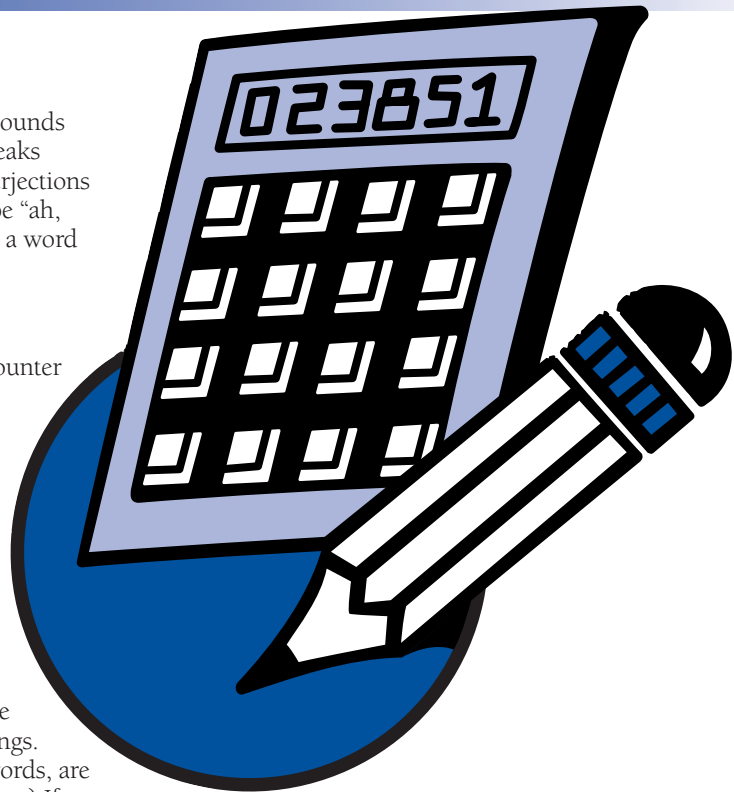
- Get a pen and blank piece of paper on which to make notes, or get a blank copy of the ah counter’s log, if your Club has one, from the Sergeant at Arms.

DURING THE MEETING

- When introduced prior to table topics, explain the role of the ah counter. In some Clubs, small fines are levied on members who do or do not do certain things. (For example, members are fined who use crutch words, are not wearing their Toastmasters pin to the meeting, etc.) If your Club levies fines, explain the fine schedule.
- Throughout the meeting, listen to everyone for “crutch” sounds and long pauses used as fillers and not as a necessary part of sentence structure. Write down how many crutch sounds or words each person used during all portions of the meeting.
- When called on by the general evaluator during the evaluation segment, stand by your chair and give your report.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Give your completed report to the Treasurer for collection of fines if your Club does this.



OPTIONAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Your Club may have other meeting participants, such as joke master, parliamentarian, and word master. Check with your Club officers for guidelines for any additional positions the Club may have.

When you are

GRAMMARIAN

Being grammarian is truly an exercise in expanding your listening skills. You have two basic responsibilities: First, to introduce new words to members, and second, to comment on the use of English during the course of the meeting.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- Select a “Word of the Day” if this is done in your Club. It should be a word that will help members increase their vocabulary—a word that can be incorporated easily into everyday conversation but is different from the way people usually express themselves. An adjective or adverb is suggested since they are more adaptable than a noun or verb, but feel free to select your own special word.
- In letters large enough to be seen from the back of the room, print your word, its part of speech (adjective, adverb, noun, etc.), and a brief definition. Prepare a sentence showing how the word is used.
- Prepare a brief explanation of the duties of the grammarian for the benefit of the guests.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MEETING

- Place your visual aid at the front of the room where it can be seen by all.
- Get a blank piece of paper and pen ready on which to make notes, or get a copy of the grammarian’s log, if your Club has one, from the Sergeant at Arms.

DURING THE MEETING

- When introduced prior to table topics, announce the “Word of the Day,” state its part of speech, define it, use it in a sentence, and ask that anyone speaking during any part of the meeting use it.
- Briefly explain the role of the grammarian.
- Throughout the meeting, listen to everyone’s word usage. Write down any awkward use or misuse of the language (incomplete sentences, sentences that change direction in midstream, incorrect grammar, malapropisms, etc.) with a note of who erred. Write down who

used the “Word of the Day” (or a derivative of it) and note those who used it correctly or incorrectly.

- When called on by the general evaluator during the evaluation segment, stand by your chair and give your report. Try to offer the correct usage in every instance where there was misuse instead of only explaining what was wrong. Report on creative language usage and announce who used the “Word of the Day” (or a derivative of it) correctly or incorrectly.

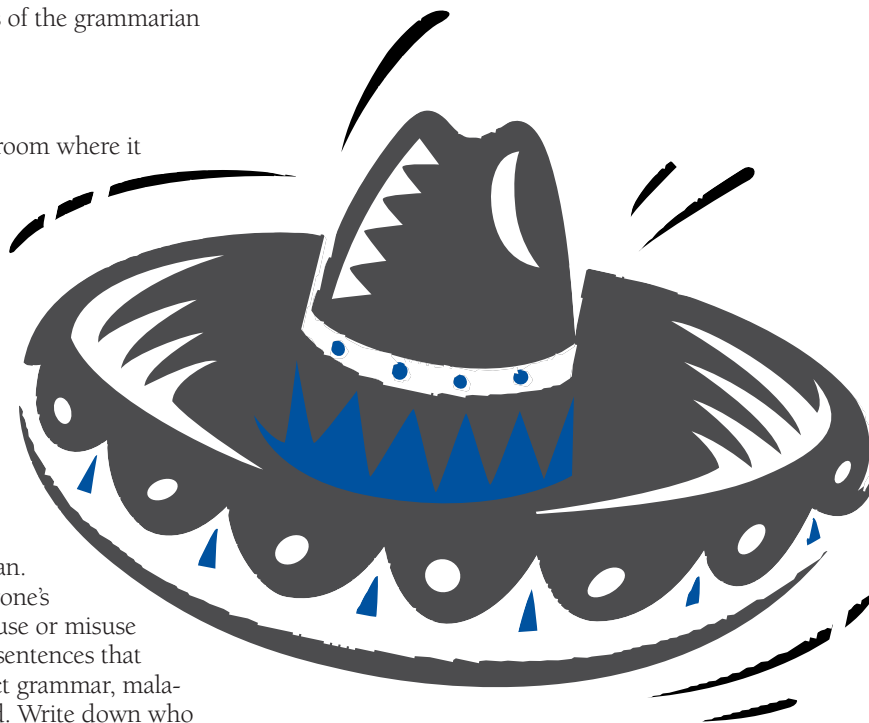
AFTER THE MEETING

- Give your completed report to the Treasurer for collection of fines, if your Club does this.

RESOURCES

Word of the Day (Catalog No. 1415)

Word of the Day II (Catalog No. 1416)



When you are the

TIMER

The Toastmaster of the meeting will call on you to explain the timing rules. One of the lessons to be practiced in speech training is that of expressing a thought within a specific time. The timer is the member responsible for keeping track of time. Each segment of the meeting is timed. You should explain your duties and report to the Club clearly and precisely. This exercise is an excellent opportunity in practicing communicating instructions – something that we do every day.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- Confirm scheduled program participants with the Toastmaster and general evaluator.
- Confirm time required for each prepared speech with the speakers.
- Write out your explanation in the clearest possible language and rehearse it. For the benefit of guests, be sure to emphasize timing rules and how timing signals will be given.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MEETING

- Get timing equipment from the Sergeant at Arms. Be sure you understand how to operate the stopwatch and signal device and make certain that timing equipment works.
- Sit where the signal device can be seen easily by all.

DURING THE MEETING

- When introduced, explain the timing rules and demonstrate the signal device.

- Throughout the meeting, signal each program participant as indicated below. In addition, signal the chairman, Toastmaster, and table topics master with red when they have reached their allotted or agreed upon time.
- Record each participant's name and time used.
- When called to report by the topic master, Toastmaster, and/or general evaluator, stand by your chair, announce the speaker's name and the time taken. State those eligible for awards if your Club issues awards. Generally topic speakers should be +- 15 seconds of allowed time; prepared speakers must be +- 30 seconds of allowed time; the ah counter and grammarian must be +- 15 seconds of allowed time; all others +-30 seconds. However, these times may vary from Club to Club.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Return the stopwatch and timing signal device to the Sergeant at Arms.
- Give the completed timer's report to the Secretary for recording speech times in the minutes if this is done in your Club.

RESOURCES

Time Prompt (Catalog No. 6620)
Cardboard Timer (Catalog No. 901)

