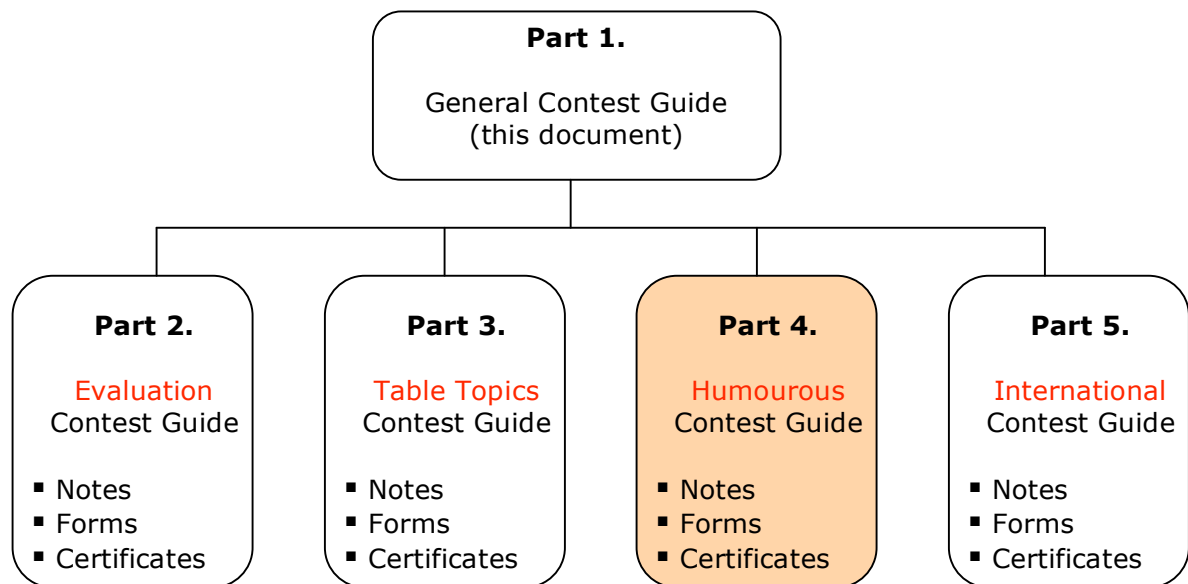


Humorous Contest

This guide is the fourth part of a manual on TM contests as a whole



Part 4 – Humorous Contest Guide

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Purpose

To provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their speaking abilities and to recognise the best as encouragement to all; to provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their Toastmasters training; and to recognise the value of humour in speaking.

Eligibility

All Toastmasters who are members in good standing of the Club in which they are competing are

eligible to compete. The Club also must be in good standing. New, dual, or reinstated members must have dues and membership application current with Toastmasters International.

The following are ineligible to compete:

- incumbent International Officers and Directors
- District Officers (Governor, any Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Division and Area Governors) whose terms expire June 30
- International Officer and Director candidates
- Immediate Past District Governors
- District Officers or announced candidates for the term beginning the upcoming July 1
- presenters of educational sessions at the Area, Division, and District event at which the contest will be held
- an individual may not be a judge at any level for a contest in which they are still competing

The Speech

You can select any topic which must be substantially original. Any quoted material must be identified during the speech. Avoid potentially objectionable language, anecdotes and offensive material. The speech must be thematic in nature (opening, body and close) not a monologue (series of one-liners).

Timing

The speech timing is 5-7 minutes. You will be disqualified if you speak less than 4 minutes 30 or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds.

Timing begins with the first word uttered by you, but if you engage in definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience prior to reaching the speaking position and uttering the first word, timing begins then.

Green light at 5 minutes for one minute. Yellow light at 6 minutes for one minute. Red light at 7 minutes and remains on until speech concluded.

Judging Criteria

- **Content - 55%**
Includes Speech Development (15 points), Effectiveness (15 points), Speech Value (15 points) and Audience Response (10 points)
- **Delivery - 30%**
Includes Physical presentation (10 points), Use of Voice (10 points), and Manner (10 points).
- **Language - 15%**
Includes Appropriateness of language and choice of words (10 points), and Correctness of language (5 points).

Briefing the Humorous judges:

<http://www.toastmastersdistrict61.org/eng/contest/docs/judg-hum-e.pdf>

HUMOUROUS CONTEST – GUIDE FOR THE CONTEST CHAIR

(Prior to the contest being called to order, you will have met with the contestants to review the contest rules and draw for speaking position)

- Acknowledge the Introducer and welcome the audience to the contest. *(You may elect to make introductory remarks to allow the audience to transition and be ready for the speech contest. It's okay to have some light humour if you feel that would be appropriate)*
- Explain the reason we hold this contest *(read from the Speech Contest Manual)*
- Introduce the Chief Judge for a brief summary of the contest rules *(The Chief Judge should remind the audience that no one will be allowed to enter or leave the room as long as a contestant is at the lectern. Please turn off all cell phones and beepers. No photos during the contest but photos may be taken during contestant interviews and awards presentation.)*
- Thank the Chief Judge and state to the audience that all speakers will be introduced by *name, speech title, name only*.
- If the Chief Judge has not given the speaking order, do so at this time so all judges and the audience can make note of it.
- Proceed to introduce Speaker #1.
- Wait at the lectern until the speaker arrives, shake his/her hand and step back. Wait until the speaker has acknowledged you and then sit down.
- When the speaker completes his/her speech, move quickly to the lectern and shake his/her hand. *(Make no comments about the speech. Simply say 'thank you')*
- Ask the audience to remain quiet while the judges complete their judging forms.
- Ask the Timer to let you know when 1 minute has passed.
- When the Timer signals you time has elapsed, introduce Speaker #2 and follow the same pattern as above.
- Repeat the same process for all speakers.
- When the last speaker has completed his/her speech, ask the audience to remain quiet while the judges complete their ballots. Ask the Chief Judge to signal you when all ballots have been collected.

AFTER THE CONTEST

Make some comment about how great the speech contest was and invite the audience to show their agreement by a round of applause for the speakers.

- Invite Speaker #1 to the lectern for an interview.
- At the close of the interview present each contestant with a Certificate of Participation and thank him/her once again for being a part of the contest.

After the last contestant has been interviewed, make some comments about how much you have appreciated the opportunity to serve as the Contest Toastmaster and return control of the lectern to the presiding officer.



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality

Club No. _____
 District _____
 Name of Contest _____

Eligibility (To be completed for all contests)

I certify that I am eligible to compete, under the current Speech Contest rules. I am an active Club member in good standing and meet all other eligibility requirements.

 SIGNATURE PRINTED NAME

Originality (To be completed for Humorous, and International Speech contests)

Name of Contest (check one):

_____ Humorous
 _____ International

Speech

Title: _____

Completion: Club _____ Area _____ Division _____ District _____

Date of

Presentation: _____

In compliance with current speech Contest rules, I certify that I alone prepared my speech and that it is substantially original.

 SIGNATURE PRINTED NAME

To be eligible to compete in any Evaluation, Humorous, Tail Tales, and Table Topics speech contests, an individual must be a Toastmaster in good standing of a Club in good standing. For the International Speech Contest a contestant must also have completed at least six speech projects in the Communication and Leadership Program manual. For the International Speech Contest these requirements are waived only for a charter member of a Club chartered since July 1. The Club must be officially chartered prior to the Area contest.

The following are ineligible for competition in any speech contest: incumbent International Officers and Directors or candidates for these offices; District officers (District Governor, Immediate Past District Governor, any Lieutenant Governor, Division Governor, Area Governor, Secretary, or Treasurer) whose terms expire June 30; District officers or announced candidates for the term beginning the upcoming July 1. Past first place winners of the International Speech Contest are not eligible to compete at any level of the International Speech Contest. The immediate past winner for the Regional Humorous Speech Contest is not eligible to compete at any level in the current year's Humorous Speech Contest.

Toastmasters who are members in more than one Club and who meet all other eligibility requirements may compete in each Club contest in which membership in good standing is held. However, should they win more than one Club contest, they can represent only one of the Clubs at the Area level. No contestant can compete in more than one Area contest, even if the two Areas are in different Divisions or different Districts.

Note: This form is to be completed by each contestant and submitted before the contest to the chief judge at each level of competition.



HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST

Judge's Guide and Ballot

Names of Contestants

| JUDGING ITEMS [SEE OVER FOR DESCRIPTION] | | SUGGESTED POINT VALUES | | | | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name |
|--|--|---|--|------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | E X C E L L E N T | V E R Y G O O D | G O O D | F A I R | | | | | | | | | |
| SPEECH DEVELOPMENT structure, organization, support material | C O N T E N T 55 | 15 | 12-14 | 10-11 | 0-9 | | | | | | | | | |
| EFFECTIVENESS achievement of purpose, interest, reception | | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| SPEECH VALUE ideas, logic, original thought | | 15 | 11-14 | 10-11 | 0-9 | | | | | | | | | |
| AUDIENCE RESPONSE Attentiveness, laughter, interest, reception | | 15 | 11-14 | 10-11 | 0-9 | | | | | | | | | |
| PHYSICAL appearance, body language | D E L I V E R Y 30 | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| VOICE flexibility volume | | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| MANNER directness, assurance, enthusiasm | | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| APPROPRIATENESS to speech purpose and audience | L A N G U A G E 15 | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| CORRECTNESS grammar, pronunciation, word selection | | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL SCORE (100 POINTS POSSIBLE) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(Detach and submit to Counters)

Judge's Official Ballot

HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST



Name of Contestant :

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>RANKING POINTS</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| FIRST | 3 |
| SECOND | 2 |
| THIRD | 1 |

(NOTE: Votes must be cast for First, Second, and Third place or the ballot will be voided.)

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name : Please PRINT)

JUDGING CRITERIA

SPEECH DEVELOPMENT is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose or theme, and the structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. A good humorous speech immediately engages the audience's attention and then builds to a significant conclusion; it is not a series of jokes or a monologue.

EFFECTIVENESS refers to your subjective judgment of how the speech came across. What was the purpose or theme of the speech? Did the speech relate directly to that purpose or theme? Was humor used effectively?

SPEECH VALUE justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience, even in a humorous speech. The ideas should be important, even though they are presented humorously.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE reflects the audience's reaction to the speech. Did the speech hold the audience's interest? Did people understand and laugh at the humor?

PHYSICAL presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning.

VOICE is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood.

MANNER is the indirect revelation of the speaker's real self as the speech is delivered. The speaker should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and Confidence in their reactions.

APPROPRIATENESS of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts, should fit the occasion and should be in good taste.

CORRECTNESS of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

JUDGE'S CODE OF ETHICS

1. Judges will consciously avoid bias of any kind in selecting first, second and third place contestants. They will not consider any contestant's club, area, division or district affiliation. Nor will they consider any contestant's age, sex, race, creed, national origin, profession or political beliefs. They will demonstrate the utmost objectivity.
2. Judges will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of under-time or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
3. Judges will support by word and deed the contest rules and judging standards, refraining from public criticism of the Contest and revealing scores and ranking only in accordance with official policy.



HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST

TIEBREAKING Judge's Guide and Ballot

Names of Contestants

| JUDGING ITEMS [SEE OVER FOR DESCRIPTION] | | SUGGESTED POINT VALUES | | | | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name | Name |
|--|--|---|--|------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | E X C E L L E N T | V E R Y G O O D | G O O D | F A I R | | | | | | | | | |
| SPEECH DEVELOPMENT structure, organization, support material | C O N T E N T 55 | 15 | 12-14 | 10-11 | 0-9 | | | | | | | | | |
| EFFECTIVENESS achievement of purpose, interest, reception | | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| SPEECH VALUE ideas, logic, original thought | | 15 | 11-14 | 10-11 | 0-9 | | | | | | | | | |
| AUDIENCE RESPONSE Attentiveness, laughter, interest, reception | | 15 | 11-14 | 10-11 | 0-9 | | | | | | | | | |
| PHYSICAL appearance, body language | D E L I V E R Y 30 | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| VOICE flexibility volume | | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| MANNER directness, assurance, enthusiasm | | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| APPROPRIATENESS to speech purpose and audience | L A N G U A G E 15 | 10 | 8-9 | 6-7 | 0-5 | | | | | | | | | |
| CORRECTNESS grammar, pronunciation, word selection | | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL SCORE (100 POINTS POSSIBLE) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(Detach and submit to Counters)

TIEBREAKING Judge's Official Ballot

HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST

Note: All speakers must be ranked



Place / Name of Contestant :

First _____ Fourth _____ Seventh _____

Second _____ Fifth _____ Eighth _____

Third _____ Sixth _____ Ninth _____

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name : Please PRINT)

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SPEECH CONTEST

Timer Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers

| Contestant | Presentation Time | |
|------------|-------------------|---------|
| | Minutes | Seconds |
| | | |
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There shall be at least two timers, one of whom shall be provided with a stopwatch by the chief judge. They shall keep the official record of the time of each contestant's presentation.

The timers shall provide warning signal lights, which shall be clearly visible to the speakers, but not obvious to the audience. Any sightless contestant may request and must be granted a form of warning signal of his or her own choosing, which maybe an audible device; the contestant must provide any special device required for such signal.

Any contestant is disqualified whose presentation time is less than the minimum time or more than the maximum time indicated below. No signal shall be given to indicate that a presentation has gone into overtime. In the event of technical failure of the lights, a contestant is allowed 30 seconds extra overtime before being disqualified.

Timing will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience. This will usually be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any other communication such as sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.

Following are the timing rules for each contest. No more than one signal light may be on at any time.

International Speech Contest: Speech length is five to seven minutes; a speaker will be disqualified if he or she speaks under four minutes, 30 seconds or more than seven minutes, 30 seconds. The green light will be turned on at five minutes. The amber light will be turned on at six minutes. The red light will be turned on at seven minutes and will remain on until the speech ends.

Humorous Speech Contest: Speech length is five to seven minutes; a contestant will be disqualified for speaking less than four minutes, 30 seconds or more than seven minutes, 30 seconds. The green light will be turned on at five minutes. The amber light will be turned on at six minutes. The red light will be turned at seven minutes and remain on until the speech ends.

Evaluation Speech Contest: Evaluation length is two to three minutes; a contestant will be disqualified for speaking less than one minute, 30 seconds or more than three minutes, 30 seconds. The green light will be turned on at two minutes. The amber light will be turned on at two minutes, 30 seconds. The red light will be turned on at three minutes and remain on until the evaluation ends.

Table Topics Speech Contest: Speech length is two minutes; a contestant will be disqualified for speaking less than one minute or more than two minutes, 30 seconds. The green light will be turned on at one minute. The amber light will be turned on at one minute, 30 seconds. The red light will be turned on at two minutes and remain on until the speech ends.

Tall Tales Speech Contest: Speech length is three to five minutes; a contestant will be disqualified for speaking less than two minutes, 30 seconds, or more than five minutes, 30 seconds. The green light will be turned on at three minutes. The amber light will be turned on at four minutes. The red light will be turned on at five minutes and remain on until the end of the speech.

Record each contestant's presentation time on the form above. Circle any time which disqualifies the contestant. Submit the completed form to the Chief Judge immediately following the last presentation.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Counter's Tally Sheet



This tally sheet should be given to the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge should provide the Chairman the names of first, second, and third (if appropriate) place contestants. The balance of the information is confidential and not to be made available as general information.

| NAME OF CONTESTANT | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | | | | | | | | | |

1. From each ballot collected, enter on this tally sheet:
 - a. 3 points for FIRST place
 - b. 2 points for SECOND place
 - c. 1 point for THIRD place

2. After results from all ballots have been entered, compute totals.

3. If tie results, refer to Tie-Breaker Ballot (1188).

4. Enter winners as follows:
 - 1st Place Winner _____
 - 2nd Place Winner _____
 - 3rd Place Winner _____

5. On a separate sheet of paper, submit the names of the winners to the Chairman or the person who will announce the results. Clearly specify first, second, and third (if appropriate) place next to the corresponding names.

SPEECH CONTESTANT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please return this biographical information before _____ to the contest chairman if you are participating in a Club, Area, Division or District speech contest or to WHQ for the International Contest held at the Annual Convention.

The material provided here may be used during the contest interviews and/or for any publicity arising from the contest.

1. Your full name, address, telephone number(s) and email address(es)

2. Club Name and Number

3. Occupation

4. Employer

5. Interests

6. Notable accomplishments

7. Speech title (for International and Humorous contests only)

8. Officer positions held in your club, Area, Division or District.

9. Highest Toastmasters Award level reached

10. Name of community newspaper closest to you.