

speak[spi:k] *v* (*spoke; spoken*)**1. 1) говорить**

the baby is learning to speak - ребёнок учится говорить

he can speak now - теперь он может говорить

Smith speaking - говорит Смит, Смит у телефона

speaking! - (я) у телефона; это я!

he spoke at last - наконец он заговорил

did you speak, sir? - вы что-то сказали, сэр?

neither of us could speak - никто из нас не мог вымолвить ни слова

she didn't speak a word - она не проронила/не сказала, не произнесла, не промолвила/ ни слова

speak the word! - ну, говори же!

for some moments not a word was spoken - несколько мгновений царило молчание

a word fitly spoken - слово, сказанное к месту

2) изъясняться, объясняться, говорить

to speak several languages - говорить на нескольких языках

to speak English - (уметь) говорить по-английски, знать английский язык

to speak through an interpreter - говорить через переводчика

to speak by signs - объясняться жестами

the Japanese delegate spoke in English - японский представитель говорил по-английски

3) (of) упоминатьto speak of - (*обыкн. с отрицанием*) заслуживать упоминания

she has hardly any voice to speak of - о её голосе не стоит и говорить, у неё почти нет голоса

it is nothing to speak of - а) об этом не стоит и говорить, это не имеет значения; б) ничего стоящего /заслуживающего

внимания, серьёзного/; в) пустяк, малое количество

not to speak of - не говоря уже о

I cannot afford a silver watch, not to speak of a gold one - у меня нет денег на серебряные часы, не говоря уже о золотых

the gentleman spoken of - джентльмен, о котором идёт /шла/ речь

her late husband was never spoken about in her presence - в её присутствии никогда не упоминали /не говорили/ о её покойном муже

2. 1) разговаривать

I know him to speak to - а) я знаю его достаточно, чтобы поговорить/заговорить/ с ним; б) у меня с ним шапочное знакомство

we had spoken with them before - мы уже раньше с ними переговорили/разговаривали/

they didn't speak for a fortnight - они не разговаривали друг с другом две недели

she spoke with him for an hour - она проговорила с ним целый час

don't speak until you are spoken to - не заговаривай, пока к тебе не обратятся

2) (to) поговорить, переговорить (с кем-л.); обратиться к кому-л. с упреком, просьбой и т. п.

I'll speak to him about it - я с ним об этом поговорю

3) (to) выговаривать кому-л.**3. произносить**

to speak through the nose - говорить в нос

the actor speaks his part well - актёр хорошо подаёт текст роли

how she spoke the word! - как она произнесла это слово!, как она это сказала!

I can hardly speak these words - я с трудом могу выговорить эти слова

4. выражаться

to speak plainly - попросту говоря

as they speak - как говорится

so to speak - так сказать; если можно так выразиться

broadly [generally] speaking - вообще говоря, в общем

metaphorically speaking - выражаясь метафорически

properly speaking - а) по сути дела, собственно говоря; б) если называть вещи своими именами

strictly speaking - строго говоря

honestly speaking - честно говоря

legally speaking - с юридической точки зрения

he speaks with clarity - он выражается ясно

5. (*мж.* speak out, speak up)**1) высказываться, выражать мнение; выступать**

to speak at a meeting [at a discussion] - выступить на собрании [на дискуссии]

to speak in public - выступать публично

to speak to an audience - обратиться с речью к собравшимся

to speak up for truth and justice - поднять голос в за щиту истины и справедливости

to speak definitely - высказаться со всей определённостью

to speak against smb., smth. - высказываться /возражать, выступать с возражением/ против кого-л., чего-л.

I ask to speak - прошу слова

since I am speaking - поскольку мне предоставлено слово

he spoke to the club on gardening - он произнёс в клубе речь о садоводстве

to speak to a point - выступить /высказаться/ по какому-л. пункту /по какому-л. вопросу/

speak to the point! - говорите по существу!

this was a measure against which he had spoken vigorously - как раз против этой меры он энергично выступал

he spoke to the same effect - он высказался в том же смысле
the law [the book] speaks to the same effect - в законе [в книге] говорится о том же

2) выражать, высказывать

to speak (out) one's mind - высказаться откровенно; открыто высказывать своё мнение
to speak the truth (aloud) - говорить правду (вслух)
to speak one's thoughts (aloud) - высказывать свои мысли (вслух)
he speaks persuasively - он убедительно высказывает свою точку зрения
the portrait speaks - портрет очень выразителен; он на портрете как живой

3) (for) выражать чьё-л. мнение; говорить вместо или от имени кого-л.

to speak for smb. - говорить за / вместо / кого-л.; представлять кого-л., выражать чьё-л. мнение [см. тж. 6]
he spoke for the whole group - он выступал от лица всей группы
writers speak for their age - писатели выражают своё время

4) (to) парл. делать заявление (по какому-л. вопросу)

he spoke to this question for some time - он сделал пространное заявление по этому поводу
to speak to an objection - выступить с ответом на возражение

6. (for) высказываться в пользу (чего-л.)

to speak for smb. - высказаться в защиту кого-л.; ≅ замолвить словечко за кого-л. [см. тж. 5, 3]
certain MPs spoke for cuts in the war budget - некоторые члены парламента высказались за сокращение военного бюджета
the company's quarterly returns speak for themselves - квартальный отчёт компании говорит сам за себя

7. (of) отзываться, характеризовать

to speak well [ill] of smb. - хорошо [дурно] отзываться о ком-л.
to speak kindly of smb. - говорить о ком-л. с нежностью
to speak evil of smb. - распространять о ком-л. гнусные слухи

8. (тж. for, to, of)

1) свидетельствовать (о чём-л.), служить свидетельством (чём-л.), говорить (о чём-л.)

to speak volumes for smth. - убедительно свидетельствовать о чём-л.
everything in the house speaks of refined taste - всё в доме говорит о хорошем вкусе
his services speak for him - его заслуги говорят за него / в его пользу /
actions speak louder than words - дела / поступки / убедительнее слов
the fact speaks for itself - а) этот факт говорит сам за себя / не требует комментариев; б) это очевидный факт
his countenance spoke regret - на лице его выразилось сожаление
his manners speak well of his upbringing - его манеры свидетельствуют о хорошем воспитании

2) подтверждать, служить подтверждением или доказательством; говорить в пользу (чего-л.)

to speak to the truth of the statement - подтвердить правильность данного заявления / данного утверждения /

9. воздействовать

music speaks directly to the emotions - музыка непосредственно действует на чувства
nature speaks to us throughout senses - природа воздействует на нас через ощущения

10. (at) намекать (на что-л.)

to speak at smb. - намекать на кого-л.
he addressed his wife but he spoke at me - он говорил с женой, но слова его были обращены ко мне / но имел в виду меня /
don't speak at me, please! - нельзя ли без намёков?, говорите прямо!

11. (for) заказывать; требовать

the goods are spoken for - товар заказан
the boy spoke for the remaining piece of pie - мальчик попросил дать ему оставшийся кусок пирога

12. здороваться, приветствовать

I must go and speak to the hostess - я должен пойти и поздороваться с хозяйкой

13. 1) грохотать, греметь (об орудиях и т. п.)

the guns spoke - заговорили / загремели / пушки
the rifles have spoken - затрещали винтовочные выстрелы
all at once the thunder spoke - вдруг загремел гром

2) звучать (о музыкальных инструментах)

3) возвещать звуками

14. мор. окликать друг друга, обмениваться сигналами (о судах)

we spoke a whaler on the fourth day at sea - на четвёртый день плавания мы обменялись приветствиями с китобойным судном

15. охот. подавать голос (о собаке)

◇ to speak like a book - а) говорить как по писаному; б) говорить очень авторитетно
to speak by the book - говорить с полным знанием дела
to speak by ... - судя по ...
to speak one's piece - амер. сл. а) выложить всё; go ahead and speak your piece! - давай выкладывай!; б) жаловаться; ныть, скулить; в) сделать предложение руки и сердца

speak

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

speak [speak speaks spoke speaking spoken] BrE [spiːk] * NAmE [spiːk] *
verb (spoke BrE [spəʊk] * ; NAmE [spouk] * spoken BrE ['spəʊkən] * ; NAmE ['spoukən] *)

HAVE CONVERSATION

1. intransitive to talk to sb about sth; to have a conversation with sb

• ~ (to sb) (about sth/sb) I've spoken to the manager about it.

- The President refused to speak to the waiting journalists.
- 'Can I speak to Susan?' 'Speaking.' (= at the beginning of a telephone conversation)
- 'Do you know him?' 'Not to speak to.' (= only by sight)
- I saw her in the street but we didn't speak.
- (especially NAmE) ~ (with sb) (about sth/sb) Can I speak with you for a minute?

USE VOICE

2. intransitive to use your voice to say sth

- He can't speak because of a throat infection.
- Please speak more slowly.
- Without speaking, she stood up and went out.
- He speaks with a strange accent.
- She has a beautiful speaking voice.

MENTION/DESCRIBE

3. intransitive ~ of/about sth/sb to mention or describe sth/sb

- She still speaks about him with great affection.
- Witnesses spoke of a great ball of flame.
- Speaking of travelling, (= referring back to a subject just mentioned) are you going anywhere exciting this year?
- The brochure speaks of beautiful secluded grounds.

A LANGUAGE

4. transitive (not used in the progressive tenses) ~ sth to be able to use a particular language

- to speak several languages
- to speak a little Urdu
- Do you speak English?

5. transitive, intransitive to use a particular language to express yourself

- ~ sth What language is it they're speaking?
- ~ in sth Would you prefer it if we spoke in German?

-SPEAKING

6. (in adjectives) speaking the language mentioned

- French-speaking Canada
- non-English-speaking students

MAKE SPEECH

7. intransitive (+ adv./prep.) to make a speech to an audience

- to speak in public
- to speak on the radio
- to speak at a conference
- Professor Wilson was invited to speak about the results of his research.
- She **spoke in favour of** the new tax.
- He has a number of **speaking engagements** this week.

SAY/STATE

8. transitive ~ sth to say or state sth

- She was clearly **speaking the truth**.
- He spoke the final words of the play.

more at actions speak louder than words **at** ↑action *n.*, speak/talk of the devil **at** ↑devil, the facts speak for themselves **at** ↑fact, speak/think ill of sb **at** ↑ill *n.*, speak/talk the same language **at** ↑language, in a manner of speaking **at** ↑manner, strictly speaking **at** ↑strictly, speak/talk out of turn **at** ↑turn *n.*

Idioms: generally/broadly/roughly/relatively speaking ▪ no ... to speak of ▪ ↑on speaking terms ▪ ↑so to speak ▪ ↑speak for itself ▪ ↑speak for myself ▪ ↑speak for yourself ▪ ↑speak ill of somebody ▪ ↑speak out of turn ▪ ↑speak volumes ▪ ↑speak your mind ▪ ↑speaking ▪ ↑speaking as something

Derived ↑speak for somebody ▪ ↑speak of something ▪ ↑speak out ▪ ↑speak to somebody ▪ ↑speak up

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	speak
	BrE /sɪˈpiːk/
	NAmE /ˈspiːk/
he / she / it	speaks
	BrE /sɪˈpiːks/
	NAmE /ˈspiːks/
past simple	spoke
	BrE /ˈspəʊk/
	NAmE /ˈspɒk/
past participle	spoken
	BrE /ˈspəʊkən/
	NAmE /ˈspɒkən/
-ing form	speaking
	BrE /ˈspiːkɪŋ/
	NAmE /ˈspɪkɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English *sprecan*, later *specan*, of West Germanic origin; related to Dutch *spreken* and German *sprechen*.

Thesaurus:

speak verb

1. |

- Can I speak to Paddy?

talk • • **chat** • • **discuss** • • **communicate** • • **consult** • • **debate** • | **formal confer** •

Speak/talk/chat/discuss sth/communicate/consult/debate/confer **with** sb

Speak/talk **to** sb

Speak/talk **of** sth

Speak or talk? **Speak** can suggest a more formal level of communication than **talk**. You **talk** to sb in order to be friendly or to ask their advice. You **speak** to sb to try to achieve a particular goal or to tell them to do sth

- 'What were you two talking about?' 'Oh, this and that.'
- Have you talked to your parents about the problems you're having?
- I've spoken to Ed about it and he's promised not to let it happen again.

2. |

- Please speak more slowly.

talk • • **say** •

Speak/talk/say sth **to** sb

Speak/talk/say sth **about** sth

They were speaking/talking **(in)** French.

Speak or talk? If sb **can't speak** they are physically unable to speak because of illness, disability or emotion. If you are talking about a baby who has not learned to talk yet, use **talk**.

3. |

- She speaks of him with great affection.

mention • • **refer to sb/sth** • | **formal allude to sb/sth** •

Speak of/mention/refer to/allude to sb/sth **as** sth

sb is **frequently/often** spoken of/mentioned/referred to/alluded to

Word Family:

speak verb

speaker noun

speech noun

spoken adjective (≠ unspoken)

Language Bank:

generally

Ways of saying 'in general'

- Women **generally** ▪ earn less than men.

Generally speaking ▪, jobs traditionally done by women are paid at a lower rate than those traditionally done by men.

In general ▪ / **By and large** ▪, women do not earn as much as men.

- Certain jobs, like nursing and cleaning, are still **mainly** ▪ carried out by women.

▪ Senior management posts are **predominantly** ▪ held by men.

▪ Most senior management posts **tend to** ▪ be held by men.

▪ Women are, **for the most part** ▪, still paid less than men.

▪ Economic and social factors are, **to a large extent** ▪, responsible for women being concentrated in low-paid jobs.

Language Banks at ↑ **conclusion**, ↑ **except**, ↑ **similarly**

Synonyms:

mention

refer to sb/sth • speak • cite • quote

These words all mean to write or speak about sb/sth, often in order to give an example or prove sth.

mention • to write or speak about sth/sb, especially without giving much information: ▪ Nobody mentioned anything to me about it.

refer to sb/sth • (*rather formal*) to mention or speak about sb/sth: ▪ I promised not to refer to the matter again.

speak • to mention or describe sb/sth: ▪ Witnesses ▪ spoke of ▪ a great ball of flame.

cite • (*formal*) to mention sth as a reason or an example, or in order to support what you are saying: ▪ He cited his heavy workload as the reason for his breakdown.

quote • to mention an example of sth to support what you are saying: ▪ Can you quote me an instance of when this happened?

cite or quote?

You can **cite** reasons or examples, but you can only **quote** examples: He quoted his heavy workload as the reason for his breakdown. **Cite** is a more formal word than **quote** and is often used in more formal situations, for example in descriptions of legal cases.

to mention/refer to/speak of/cite/quote sb/sth **as** sb/sth

to mention/refer to/cite/quote a(n) **example /instance/case** of sth

frequently/often mentioned/referred to/spoken of/cited/quoted

the example mentioned/referred to/cited/quoted **above/earlier/previous**

Synonyms:

talk

discuss • speak • communicate • debate • consult

These words all mean to share news, information, ideas or feelings with another person or other people, especially by talking with them.

talk • to speak in order to give information, express feelings or share ideas: ▪ We talked on the phone for over an hour.

discuss • (rather formal) to talk and share ideas on a subject or problem with other people, especially in order to decide sth: ▪

Have you discussed the problem with anyone?

You cannot say 'discuss about sth': I'm not prepared to discuss about this on the phone.

speak • to talk to sb about sth; to have a conversation with sb: ▪ I've spoken to the manager about it. ◊▪ 'Can I speak to Susan?'

'Speaking.' ▪ (= at the beginning of a telephone conversation)

talk or speak?

Speak can suggest a more formal level of communication than **talk**. You **speak** to sb about sth to try to achieve a particular goal or to tell them to do sth. You **talk** to sb in order to be friendly or to ask their advice: ▪ Have you talked to your parents about the problems you're having? ◊▪ I've spoken to Ed about it and he's promised not to let it happen again.

communicate • (rather formal) to exchange information or ideas with sb: ▪ We only communicate by email. ◊▪ Dolphins use sound to communicate with each other.

Communicate is often used when the speaker wants to draw attention to the means of communication used.

debate • to discuss sth, especially formally, before making a decision or finding a solution: ▪ Politicians will be debating the bill later this week.

consult • (rather formal) to discuss sth with sb in order to get their permission for sth, or to help you make a decision: ▪ You shouldn't have done it without consulting me.

to talk/discuss sth/speak/communicate/debate/consult **with** sb

to talk/speak **to** sb

to talk/speak to sb/consult sb **about** sth

to talk/speak **of** sth

Example Bank:

- Ed and Dave aren't speaking at the moment.
- Everyone should have the right to speak their mind.
- He lost his ability to speak.
- He nodded, not trusting himself to speak.
- He speaks German fluently.
- He speaks very warmly of you.
- He spoke out against mismanagement.
- He will be speaking to history students about the causes of war.
- I didn't get a chance to speak to him.
- I heard him speak at the debating society.
- I need to speak to Joseph about this matter.
- I speak for all my colleagues.
- I speak on behalf of many thousands of women.
- I'm speaking from experience, having been there often.
- No one had ever dared speak to him like that before.
- She opened her mouth to speak and found she couldn't.
- She speaks on women's issues.
- She spoke eloquently about the need for action.
- She was invited to speak at a Harvard conference.
- She was so moved she could hardly speak.
- Speaking of Brett, why isn't he here?
- The ability to speak another language is a valued skill.
- The main character speaks directly into the camera.
- They had the courage to speak the truth.
- We are still on speaking terms after the argument.
- We spoke briefly on the phone.
- Would you prefer it if we spoke in French?
- You must speak loudly and clearly on the stage.
- learning to speak a foreign language
- 'Can I speak to Susan?' 'Speaking.'
- 'Do you know him?' 'Not to speak to.'
- He can't speak because of a throat infection.
- He was so afraid of breaking down he couldn't trust himself to speak.
- I've spoken to Ed about it and he's promised not to let it happen again.
- I've spoken to the manager about it.
- She speaks several languages/a little Urdu/an unusual dialect.
- Speaking of travelling, are you going anywhere exciting this year?
- What language are they speaking in?

speak

speak **S1 W1** /spiːk **BrE** ^ˈ **AmE** ^ˈ verb (past tense **spoke** /spəʊk \$ spouk/, past

participle **spoken** /'spəʊkən \$ 'spou-/)

[Word Family: adjective: ↑unspeakable, ↑speechless, ↑outspoken, ↑spoken ≠ ↑unspoken; noun: ↑speaker, ↑speech; verb: ↑speak; adverb: ↑unspeakably]

[Language: Old English; Origin: sprecan, specan]

1. **IN CONVERSATION** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to talk to someone about something

speak to

- I spoke to her last Wednesday.
- 'Hello, may I speak to Jim Smith?' 'Yes, speaking' (=used on the telephone).
- I know her by sight, but not to speak to (=not well enough to talk to her).

speak to somebody about something

- I haven't spoken to Steve about all this.

speak with especially American English:

- They did not want to speak with reporters.

speak of

- It was the first time she had ever spoken of marriage.

2. **SAY WORDS** [intransitive] to use your voice to produce words:

- I was so shocked I couldn't speak.
- He spoke very softly (=quietly).

3. **LANGUAGE** [transitive not in progressive] to be able to talk in a particular language:

- Do you speak English?
- I don't speak a word of French (=do not speak any French at all).

can/can't speak something

- Several children in the class can't speak English.

French-speaking/Italian-speaking etc

- a German-speaking secretary

4. **FORMAL SPEECH** [intransitive] to make a formal speech

speak at

- Jones spoke at the teachers' annual convention.

speak to

- She asked me to speak to her students about my work in marketing.

speak in favour of/against

- Only one MP spoke against the bill. ⇒ ↑speaker(1)

5. **EXPRESS IDEAS/OPINIONS** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to say something that expresses your ideas or opinions

speak as a parent/teacher/democrat etc

- He emphasized that he was speaking as a private citizen, not in any official capacity.

speak well/highly/ill of somebody (=say good or bad things about someone)

- Her co-workers spoke highly of her.
- It's wrong to speak ill of the dead.

strictly/generally/roughly speaking (=used when expressing an idea that you think is exactly true, generally true etc)

- Strictly speaking, it's my money, not yours. I earned it.

6. **so to speak** used when you are saying something in words that do not have their usual meaning:

- We have to pull down the barriers, so to speak, of poverty.

7. **speak your mind** to tell people exactly what you think, even if it offends them:

- He was a tough politician who wasn't afraid to speak his mind.

8. **be not speaking/not be on speaking terms** if two people are not speaking, they do not talk to each other, usually because they have argued:

- He was not on speaking terms with his brother or sisters.

9. **speak volumes (about/for something)** if something speaks volumes, it clearly shows the nature of something or the feelings of a person:

- What you wear speaks volumes about you.

10. **speak with one voice** if a group of people speak with one voice, they all express the same opinion:

- On this issue, the 12 organizations spoke with one voice.

11. **speak the same language** if two people or groups speak the same language, they have similar attitudes and opinions

12. **speak out of turn** to say something when you do not have the right or authority to say it

⇒ actions speak louder than words at ↑action¹(13), ⇒ the facts speak for themselves at ↑fact(8), ⇒ in a manner of speaking at ↑manner(5)

• • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 5)

■ adverbs

- **speak well/highly of somebody** (=say good things about them) He always spoke very highly of Marge.
- **speak ill of somebody** (=say bad things about them) She never speaks ill of him.
- **speaking personally** Speaking personally, yes, this is a worry.
- **strictly speaking** Strictly speaking, the tomato is a fruit.
- **generally speaking** Generally speaking, the results have been good.
- **roughly/broadly speaking** These innovations are, roughly speaking, what this book is about.
- **relatively speaking** Relatively speaking, property there is still cheap.

■ phrases

- **speak as a parent/teacher etc** Speaking as a medical man, I'd advise you to take some exercise every day.

• • •

to speak a language

- **speak** to be able to talk in a foreign language: Do you speak German? | I learnt Spanish for years, but I still don't speak it very well.
- **be fluent in something** to be very good at speaking and understanding a foreign language, so that you can speak it almost as well as your own language: Applicants should be fluent in Cantonese.
- **get by** to speak enough of a language to be able to buy things, ask for help etc: 'What's your Italian like?' 'Not great, but I can get by.' | I've just bought a book called 'Get by in Portuguese'.
- **have/pick up a smattering of something** to speak or learn to speak a small but useful amount of a language: While I was in Bali, I picked up a smattering of Indonesian.

speak for *phrasal verb*

1. **speak for somebody/something** to express the feelings, thoughts, or beliefs of a person or group of people:
 - Dan, speaking for the students, started the meeting.
2. **speak for yourself** *spoken* used to tell someone that you do not have the same opinion as they do, or that something that is true for them is not true for you:
 - 'We don't want to go.' 'Speak for yourself!'
3. **be spoken for** if something or someone is spoken for, they have already been promised to someone else:
 - They're all either married or spoken for.
4. **speak for itself/themselves** to show something very clearly:
 - The results speak for themselves.

speak of something *phrasal verb*

1. **literary** to show clearly that something happened or exists:
 - Her skin spoke of warm summer days spent in the sun.
2. **no ... to speak of** (also **none/nothing to speak of**) very little of something or a very small thing:
 - There's been no rain to speak of for several months.
 - The house had no garden to speak of.

speak out *phrasal verb*

to publicly speak in protest about something, especially when protesting could be dangerous

speak out about/against

- Five students who had spoken out against the regime were arrested.

speak to *phrasal verb*

1. to talk to someone who has done something wrong and tell them not to do it again:
 - Joe was late again today. You'll have to speak to him.
2. if something such as a poem, painting, or piece of music speaks to you, you like it because it expresses a particular meaning, quality, or feeling to you:
 - Modern art just doesn't speak to me.

speak up *phrasal verb*

1. used to ask someone to speak louder:
 - Could you speak up, please?
2. to say something, especially to express your opinion:
 - There was a brief silence, then Gerald spoke up.
3. **speak up for somebody** to speak in support of someone:
 - He is willing to speak up for the rights of women.

speak

Freakuency Pack

12500 **367**^{MCW}
15000 **326**^{COCA}
RANGE: **1k** **SPEAK** 147414
speak 44230
speaker 10836
speakers 5719
speaking 28758
speaks 11601
spoke 32121
spoken 11984
unspoken 1350
unspeaking 14
unspeakable 801
COCA 500k Unlemmatized
20506 **1301**³²²⁹⁰ *vvi*
9491 **3474**¹¹⁸⁹⁷ *vv0*
15 **199994**¹⁶ *nnu*
14 **200364**¹⁶ *jj*
11 **244963**¹¹ *nn1*