

## 2.4 The Talk

### 2.4.1 General Rules

#### Talk *loudly* and *clearly*.

- Talking loud does not mean you have to scream.
- Do not mumble. Rather than going off into silent obscurity if you are stuck, start the sentence again from the beginning.
- Speak slowly. Not *extremely slowly*, but a little bit under your normal rate.

#### Make small *breaks* (5 seconds is already a long break - try it!)

- The more important the statement, the longer the break after it!
- Give the audience a little time to absorb your immortal words!

#### Use *short sentences*

- Rule of thumb: **15** words per sentence is about right
- **Subordinate clauses** should be subordinate! Use at most one subordinate clause per **main clause**
- Finish your sentence! Only the real masters of oral presentations can jump from one subject to the next with all kinds of circumlocutions in between and without ever finishing a sentence and, by doing this while in addition not sticking to all of the other subjects, which, by the way, are of course only for beginners anyway, who easily get confused which is not what we want to have here; but anyway, as I was going to say, your audience will be enraptured - or so we hope!

#### *You* instead of *me*.

- Address your audience, not yourself. Say "What *you* see here..." and not "*I* will show you..."
- But say "*me*" whenever it is necessary. "*I* am of the opinion that..." instead of "One is lead to believe..."

#### Use verbs instead of nouns. Compare:

- The *preparation* of *topics* for the *purpose* of *presentation* requires from the *speaker* the *knowledge* of his *field of science* and in addition a *consideration* of the *findings* concerning *ways* of *information transfer*
- If you want to make a good *presentation* you should know your *subject*. You should also present your *information* in such a *way* that your *audience* likes it.
- We all know people who speak and write in nouns only. We do not like these people.

#### Use the active and not the passive mode!

#### Emphasize intentionally the main points. There are many tricks.

- **Raise your voice** - or *lower your voice* - either way you get attention
- Use breaks as mentioned before.
- Repeat the sentence after a short break.

#### Avoid meaningless noises to gain time!

- The most common meaningless noise is the good old "hmm", or "hein", but there are many more
- Fill words or clauses as, e.g. "in principle", "so to speak", "in other words", "as I have said before", ...

### Remember

#### If you get perfect in all that was pointed out, nothing can now stop you from becoming a famous politician or even a **TV** person!

#### However, if you have set your sights somewhat higher and you want to become a good engineer or scientist, you must add one more thing:

- **You must *know* what you are talking about!**