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2 questions: 1. Do we say "make" a speech or "give" a speech ?? (We do say give a talk, right?) 2. Do "speech" and "talk" differ somehow?? (I mean when they both refer to someone addressing an audience, I m not referring to the other senses of the words)For example, is "talk" more suitable for an academic presentation (I suppose it is)? Then in which cases is "speech" more suitable/Thanks! Last edited: Jan 28, 2010 I think I would make a speech and give a talk.I'll check the corpora in a minute or so. Speech/talkA speech is often a part of some kind of event and may be quite short (hopefully).In those circumstances it has a purpose related to the event. Opening/closing something, welcoming/thanking people, etc. A talk is more like a lecture or presentation of your thoughts. BNC: give a speech - 9make a speech - 37give a talk - 28make a talk - 0 COCAgive a speech - 203make a speech - 134give a talk - 60make a talk - 4 Interesting.BNC - British National CorpusCOCA - Corpus of Contemporary American English Last edited: Jan 28, 2010 Thank you very much for your reply!So, we just spotted another British/American English difference..interesting indeed! Last edited: Jan 28, 2010 Actually, I think "to make a speech" is rarely used in American English these days. Maybe it was more frequent ten years ago. Here's some support for that idea: American English setting. (The BE results are similar but less pronounced - assuming you can trust the data to be divided properly, which is an open question with ngrams.)Google Books Ngram Viewer So.... Looking for definitions explaining the differences between a speech and a talk (notice the nouns, not the verbs)A speech can be more formal than a talk and is often part of a larger event. There is most likely a purpose attached to it like the best man's speech at a UK wedding where the Best man is supposed to talk about the groom, or the inaugural address of US presidents where the President presents his ideas for his mandate to the audience.A talk... A talk is maybe a smaller event and less formal (but not necessarily informal). A talk is a presentation of someone's thoughts or ideas, perhaps with the idea of discussion. I'm thinking Ted talks...Would you agree?Anything to add?Thanks to Panjandrum for his/ her contribution here I think youve pretty-much answered your own question! But I would stress that the size of the audience and the venue both come into it too. At a local level in the UK, if youre hired to address members of a group or club, or the residents of a home, youre being asked to give a talk on a certain topic but youll be kept on record as a potential speaker at such events. And if youre one of several speakers at a formal gathering, such as a local business or sporting organisations annual dinner, or some other best-bib-and-tucker function, youre being asked to give a speech and will find yourself delivering a speech at that event. I think youve pretty-much answered your own question! But I would stress that the size of the audience and the venue both come into it too. At a local level in the UK, if youre hired to address members of a group or club, or the residents of a home, youre being asked to give a talk on a certain topic but youll be kept on record as a potential speaker at such events. And if youre one of several speakers at a formal gathering, such as a local business or sporting organisations annual dinner, or some other best-bib-and-tucker function, youre being asked to give a speech and will find yourself delivering a speech at that event. Great, thanks for that I think a talk is often more about presenting information and a speech is more about promoting ideas and often persuading people of something. A talk at a scientific convention presents the information from the latest lab experiments, for example. There might be a question and answer session afterwards (or possibly even questions during).I don't think there are usually questions and answers after a speech. With a speech, the person says what they say and leaves you to think about it. Like I said, it's often, as in politics, an attempt to persuade or motivate. A talk doesn't have that goal, I don't think. I think your first sentence is a good summary, although a speech is not always to promote ideas or persuade people... Speeches at a wedding for example, not unless you see it as someone trying to persuade people that the groom is a good guy and the father of the bride is happy with the match Yes, we could add the concept of commemorating something as a category of a speech. Many speeches are commemorations of a person or of historical events. I think a wedding speech would fall into that category.It wouldn't be nearly as good a fit to call something like that a talk. My English teachers since elementary taught me how to use A and AN properly. but lately, when I am writing a letter, the auto correct grammarly that I installed in my computer corrected my letter from AN SPEECH to A SPEECH.What is the correct one? That's correct. There is no vowel sound at the beginning of 'speech'. But my English teachers say that if the first letter of the next word is vowel sound even if it is a consonant letter, you mustve to say AN. Is that correct? I suspect you may have misunderstood that instruction? Its about how you pronounce the beginning of a word that follows the indefinite article. It has nothing to do with how the first letter of that word is pronounced on its own. s is a consonant but the letter itself is pronounced ess (which begins with a vowel sound)u is a vowel but the letter itself is pronounced like you (which begins with a consonant sound)But that has nothing to do with the general use of a or an.The indefinite article is a An is simply another version of it that's sometimes needed to aid pronunciation. Its about how words sound when you say them out loud. So the only time you need to use an is when the word that follows the indefinite article begins with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or sounds as though it does. Thus, a apple becomes an apple, a orange becomes an orange, a egg becomes an egg, etc. But must emphasise it is the initial SOUND that matters, not whether the first letter is a vowel or not.She is a university professor.He is a European politics specialist.She is an NYPD ballistics expert. Perhaps the Filipino accent causes you to pronounce speech as if it were espeech. The standard pronunciation in English does not add the E sound. This is what I would have guessed. Maybe it is because of Spanish influence. I suspect you may have misunderstood that instruction? Its about how you pronounce the beginning of a word that follows the indefinite article. It has nothing to do with how the first letter of that word is pronounced on its own.s is a consonant but the letter itself is pronounced ess (which begins with a vowel sound)u is a vowel but the letter itself is pronounced like you (which begins with a consonant sound) Each of those uses of "pronounced" is probably only more confusing. The letters aren't pronounced that way. They're named that way; those are their names, not their pronunciations/sounds.This is an especially important distinction if we're addressing a Spanish-speaker. Spanish-speakers often get so accustomed to words beginning with "es" and not with "s" that they can find it extremely difficult to adjust and correctly pronounce (or even imagine that it's possible to pronounce) foreign words which really do begin with just "s". Adding the "e" is so automatic that they don't even realize they're doing it because that would require first having a concept of the "s" not having an "e" before it. So the original question here could be based on a misconception that "s" is actually pronounced "es" despite the fact that it is not... in which case the most important thing to do in answering would be to emphasize that way at all. I'm new to the forums, so please allow me to say "hi" to everyone. Now, let's get down to business Let's see the example sentence below: John: I was going to meet Stephanie How would you formulate this in reported speech? My solution is: John said he was going to meet Stephanie So, I wouldn't change the "was going to" structure as I cannot think about a better option. I want to be as clear as I can be, so I'll put the example sentence in context: Me: John, do you have any plans for tonight?John: Well, I was going to meet Stephanie, but she got sick [so I won't meet her]. So, here, "was going to" refers to intention in the past to do something in the future [Stephanie and I agreed to meet in the future] which "failed" [Stephanie got sick, so we can't meet]. When we use "am/is/are going to" in direct speech, we report it with "was/were going to" and on the surface level, there's no difference between a sentence that has "am/is/are going to" and is reported, and another sentence that has "was/were going to" and is reported. However, there's a difference in meaning between the two, but I suspect that the context clarifies the issue. E.g.: direct speech: I am going to play football with Tom reported speech: He said he was going to play football with Tom direct speech: I was going to play football with Tom reported speech: He said he was going to play football with Tom [but Tom didn't show up]So, there's no difference between the two reported sentences on the surface, but there's a meaning difference between the two that should be clarified by the context. Do you think I'm right, or am I completely in the dark here? He said he was going to play football can report both of these:I am going to play football.I was going to play football.But remember 1. that we have means of intonation to indicate the difference, and 2. that you have the possibility of He said he is going to play football, to report the first, if the present tense is important. He said he was going to play football can report both of these:I am going to play football.I was going to play football.But remember 1, that we have means of intonation to indicate the difference, and 2, that you have the possibility of He said he is going to play football, to report the first, if the present tense is important. Thanks for the reply! Welcome to the forum. John: I was going to meet Stephanie.How would you formulate this in reported speech? My solution is:John said he was going to meet Stephanie. That's correct.I agree with what Thomas says about the football sentences. P.S.: Remember that a sentence needs a period at the end. Could you please tell me if the following sentence is correct? The sentence is: Tom told me he would have written a letter by noon, but he didn't Is this a correct use of the FUTURE PERFECT? Thanks a lot in advance for your help. Marco Well, Marco, it's not actually a use of the future perfect at all.Tom tells me he will have written ...~ that's a future perfect Your sentence conveys that Tom isn't sure exactly what time he wrote the letter, but, that it was completed before noon, and you know this isn't true. Whether he lied or was mistaken isn't clear. If that's what you want to express, you did it correctly. The construction is conditional + past participle. Well, Marco, it's not actually a use of the future perfect at all.Tom tells me he will have written ...~ that's a future perfect Actually, hrm... I think it is the future perfect... in the past. I'm thinking by analogy here:Tom: I will write the letter tonight. the possessor of the speechIn my opinion, the first one makes sense. But here is what I found in Google: "speech of the Prime Minister": 1,900,000"speech by the Prime Minister": 2,030,000 A quick glance suggests that most of these appear not to be by native speakers. If you restrict the source pages on advanced google search to .co.uk you only get 6 examples of "speech of the Prime Minister", suggesting that this is rarely used in the UK, at least. Foreigner never proposed a full sentence in which to use this phrase. I don't think the use of "of" or "by" can be divorced from context. Hello everyone, A quick glance suggests that most of these appear not to be by native speakers. If you restrict the source pages on advanced google search to .co.uk you only get 6 examples of "speech of the Prime Minister", suggesting that this is rarely used in the UK, at least. Well, this discussion seems to be very interesting and I also would like to ask a question on the subject: Is "speech/address of the minister/president/etc." incorrect or just rarely used? I can't post urls, but all examples are from native English sources:Lord Hunt of Kings Heath; My Lords, one way to deal with that would be for the Government to write letters in response to the amendments so that the technical details, which might normally be addressed in the winding-up **speech of the Minister**, could at least be on the record and placed in the Library. When we come back on Report, the noble Baroness and other noble Lords would then have the benefit of a Government response. I do not know whether that is helpful. It might be one way in which to alleviate the concerns of the noble Baroness. The following is an extract from the **speech of the Minister** of State, Department for International Development during the Global Poverty debate: The silliest **speech of** the Obama administration? Joe Biden surrenders US leadership to Brussels 18. RADIO **ADDRESS OF** THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION --September 19, 1998 The Oval Office 10:06 A.M. EDT THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I want to talk to you this morningabout what I believe we must do to continue building a stronger Americafor our children and our grandchildren in the 21st century. Looking at the Google results for "speech of the Prime Minister" the majority seem to be using this phrase as an official title for the speech itself (e.g. "Text of the speech of the PM of Ukraine") rather than as part of a paragraph. The most common in my opinion would be to use "speech by" or use the possessive form "the President's speech." One exception is when there is a grammatical reason (e.g. speech of the PM whose...).

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