**Speech - Stories & Illustrations**

**A British accent is the most attractive in the world, according to a poll of 11,000 people in 24 cities around the world. An American accent came in second, followed by Irish and Australian. French, once considered the language of love, finished in fifth place. (The Independent (U.K.), as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 20, 2015)**

**Auctioneers prefer even numbers, so reduce their offerings of, say, nine dinner plates to "a complete service" of eight, five champagne glasses to "a set" of four, three chairs to "a matched pair." (L. M. Boyd)**

**It is estimated the average person speaks 31,500 words a day. That’s only about a third as many words as there are hairs on the scalp of the average redhead. It’s about a third as many, too, as the number of words in a typical paperback novel. (Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 140)**

**Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was telling an audience about the best speech he had ever heard. It was delivered by Gen. Curtis LeMay, then Chief of Staff of the Air Force. "'I have a speech,'" he quoted General LeMay as saying. "'It's a good speech. It was written by a smart lieutenant colonel who works for me, and I read it on the way here. Now I'm going to put it in the library, and you can read it too.'" (Phil Gailey and Marjorie Hunter, in New York Times)**

**Every time you say something, your blood pressure goes up. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Lewis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland, stuttered when he talked to grownups but not when he talked to children. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**No Republican or conservative has been invited to make the commencement speech this year at any of the 50 top U.S. liberal arts colleges, as ranked by U.S. News and World Report. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 31, 2013)***

**Male CEOs with deeper voices manage larger companies, keep their jobs longer, and earn more -- up to $187,000 more per year -- than their higher-pitched peers, according to a speech pattern analysis of nearly 800 chief executives. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 12, 2014)***

**A U. S. Senator devotes an average of 109 hours a year to speech-making from the floor of his chamber. For a U. S. Representative it is two hours. (L. M. Boyd)**

**In other Eastern teachings, students are presented with a “rule of thumb” by which to judge whether to speak or not. They consist of three questions which the student must be able to answer in the affirmative before speaking. Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Can you imagine how quiet most of us would be if everything we were to say was subjected to those questions? (Wendy S. Craig, in New Thought magazine)**

**In England, the speaker of the House is not allowed to speak at length. (L. M. Boyd)**

**If a frog keeps its mouth open too long, it will suffocate. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 12)***

**A man was brought to Jesus who was deaf and stammering in speech. I am fascinated by the sequence of ministry. First, Jesus opened his ears; then, his tongue was freed, and he spoke plainly. If we are to speak, we must first hear. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 85)***

**The Psychology Department of Dayton University reports that loud talk can be ten times more distracting than the sound of a jackhammer. Loud, incessant chatter can make a listener nervous and irritable, say the findings, and even start him on the road to insanity. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 141)***

**The Most Important Words: The well-known author, "Anonymous," has come up with this numbered list of words: The 6 most important words: "I admit I made a mistake." The 5 most important words, "You did a good job." The 4 most important words: "What is your opinion?" The 3 most important words: "If you please." The 2 most important words: "Thank you." The single most important word: "God." *(LectionAid)***

**Can you imagine what a wonderful world this would be if we only spoke when we had something to say . . . and better yet, only when that something was positive? The right use of words is emphasized in every major religion and philosophy of the world. Guatama Buddha listed “right speech” as part of the Four Noble Truths and one of the eight steps to “nirvana” or enlightenment. *(Wendy S. Craig, in New Thought magazine)***

**When Adlai Stevenson was awarded an honorary degree in 1959, he said he found it both tempting and treacherous -- "tempting because we all hope to be mistaken for scholars, and bad because if you then make a speech, the mistake is quickly exposed." (Edwin McDowell, in The Wall Street Journal)**

**Experts on stuttering think about 1 percent of the world’s population is afflicted to one degree or another with the problem. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A woman can talk with less effort than a man because her vocal cords are shorter than those of the male. Not only does this cause her voice to be higher pitched, it also requires less air to agitate the cords making it possible for her to talk more, yet expend less energy. (E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 42)**

**Yelling at people to get them to do things your way makes about as much sense as driving your car by honking your horn. *(Bits & Pieces)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***