

Lesson  
3

# Speech! Speech!

## Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with speech and language.

**brevity** (BREV i tee) N. shortness of duration; conciseness (*After four hours of speeches, everyone appreciated the governor's brevity.*)

**contradict** (KAHN truh DIKT) V. to assert the opposite (*I felt that it was my duty to contradict what he said about my brother.*)

**dialect** (DY uh LEKT) N. a particular variety of language spoken by members of a group or residents of a geographic region (*The dialect spoken in Louisiana is unlike any other kind of English I know.*)

**diction** (DIK shuhn) N. pronunciation; vocal expression (*Clear diction is characteristic of most successful orators.*)

**edit** (ED it) V. to select, correct, and prepare for publication (*The aspiring writer refused to allow anyone to edit his work.*)

**eloquent** (EL uh kwuhnt) ADJ. fluent and graceful in the use of language (*The jurors were moved to tears by the lawyer's eloquent defense of his client.*)

**emphasis** (EM fuh sis) N. special importance or attention given to something to make it stand out (*The school places emphasis on basic skills, such as reading.*)

**enunciate** (i NUHN see AYT) V. to articulate speech sounds (*Stop mumbling and enunciate clearly.*)

**equivocate** (i KWIV uh KAYT) V. to use vague language with the intent to deceive or mislead (*Raymond attempted to equivocate about where he had been.*)

**guttural** (GUHT ur uhl) ADJ. pertaining to or produced in or near the throat (*Many languages contain letters pronounced with a guttural sound.*)

**idioms** (ID ee uhmz) N. expressions whose meanings cannot be derived from the combined literal meanings of their words (*"To put up with" is one of the many English idioms.*)

**incite** (in SYT) V. to urge on or arouse (*An emotional speech at this time could incite a riot.*)

**incoherent** (IN koh HEER uhnt) ADJ. unable to express oneself clearly or logically (*The officer was unable to get the details because the woman was incoherent after the accident.*)

**jargon** (JAHR guhn) N. specialized or technical vocabulary (*I was able to understand much of the physician's jargon because I had worked in an emergency room.*)

**linguistic** (ling GWIS tik) ADJ. pertaining to language (*Humans begin to develop linguistic abilities as soon as they are born.*)

**lucid** (LOO sid) ADJ. easy to understand; rational (*The professor's explanation of the theorem was so lucid that I understood it immediately.*)

**oratory** (OR uh TOR ee) N. the art of public speaking (*Many people attend seminars to enhance their skills in oratory.*)

**prosaic** (proh ZAY ik) ADJ. factual; unpoetic; dull or commonplace (*Although his ideas are clever, this author's prosaic writing style does not appeal to everyone.*)

**usage** (YOO sij) N. the way language is used to express ideas (*Advertising has had much to do with changing English usage.*)

**verbose** (vur BOHS) ADJ. wordy (*The pastor's verbose sermon was needlessly long.*)

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## Exercise 1

Choose the letter of the word set that best completes the sentence.

- The child's ---- skills were limited, and often he was ----.  
**A.** linguistic — incoherent      **C.** guttural — linguistic  
**B.** lucid — verbose      **D.** eloquent — guttural
- We were grateful for the ---- of the speech because the technical ---- made it too difficult to understand.  
**F.** oratory — usage      **H.** brevity — jargon  
**G.** dialect — emphasis      **J.** usage — idioms
- She used her brilliant ---- to ---- her audience to make donations.  
**A.** emphasis — enunciate      **C.** oratory — incite  
**B.** dialect — edit      **D.** idioms — equivocate
- Her unusual ---- did not detract from her ---- explanation.  
**F.** dialect — lucid      **H.** idioms — incoherent  
**G.** diction — verbose      **J.** jargon — prosaic
- I have to ---- his work because he has trouble with English ----.  
**A.** contradict — emphasis      **C.** incite — idioms  
**B.** enunciate — emphasis      **D.** edit — usage
- In spite of the lecturer's precise ----, her speech was far from ----.  
**F.** emphasis — prosaic      **H.** dialect — guttural  
**G.** oratory — verbose      **J.** diction — eloquent
- Mark learned to clearly ---- the many ---- sounds of German.  
**A.** equivocate — eloquent      **C.** incite — eloquent  
**B.** enunciate — guttural      **D.** edit — guttural
- Many ---- papers prompted the teacher's ---- on conciseness.  
**F.** eloquent — oratory      **H.** lucid — diction  
**G.** prosaic — dialect      **J.** verbose — emphasis
- The linguist did not ---- about her dislike of many English ----.  
**A.** incite — emphasis      **C.** equivocate — idioms  
**B.** contradict — jargon      **D.** enunciate — dialect
- I did not want to ---- him, but his advertising campaign seemed too ----.  
**F.** contradict — prosaic      **H.** incite — guttural  
**G.** enunciate — incoherent      **J.** edit — lucid

## Exercise 2

Choose the letter of the word that most nearly has the *same* meaning as the word in capital letters.

- |                     |                     |                      |                       |                     |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>11. EMPHASIS</b> | <b>A.</b> language  | <b>C.</b> neglect    | <b>16. INCOHERENT</b> | <b>F.</b> confusing | <b>H.</b> clear      |
|                     | <b>B.</b> stress    | <b>D.</b> poem       |                       | <b>G.</b> vulgar    | <b>J.</b> flashy     |
| <b>12. BREVITY</b>  | <b>F.</b> briefness | <b>H.</b> speed      | <b>17. CONTRADICT</b> | <b>A.</b> formulate | <b>C.</b> agree      |
|                     | <b>G.</b> logic     | <b>J.</b> beauty     |                       | <b>B.</b> disagree  | <b>D.</b> chatter    |
| <b>13. LUCID</b>    | <b>A.</b> murky     | <b>C.</b> tiresome   | <b>18. EQUIVOCATE</b> | <b>F.</b> determine | <b>H.</b> evade      |
|                     | <b>B.</b> unstable  | <b>D.</b> clear      |                       | <b>G.</b> argue     | <b>J.</b> equal      |
| <b>14. VERBOSE</b>  | <b>F.</b> poetic    | <b>H.</b> full       | <b>19. PROSAIC</b>    | <b>A.</b> dull      | <b>C.</b> amusing    |
|                     | <b>G.</b> talkative | <b>J.</b> bossy      |                       | <b>B.</b> poetic    | <b>D.</b> pure       |
| <b>15. ELOQUENT</b> | <b>A.</b> wordy     | <b>C.</b> rational   | <b>20. INCITE</b>     | <b>F.</b> fight     | <b>H.</b> provoke    |
|                     | <b>B.</b> sincere   | <b>D.</b> expressive |                       | <b>G.</b> leave     | <b>J.</b> discourage |

## Vocabulary

### Exercise 1

- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**

### Exercise 2

- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**
- A** **B** **C** **D**
- F** **G** **H** **J**