



INSTITUTE

*for*

PUBLIC SPEAKING

# Where to begin?

Getting started as a public speaker.

## Where to begin?

### *Getting started as a speaker*

Let's begin with three assumptions:

1. You are not currently being paid to speak at conferences, business meetings or social events.

If you *are* being paid to speak, you should register with the IfPS immediately! You should also visit [www.professionalspeakersassociation.co.uk](http://www.professionalspeakersassociation.co.uk) to see whether you should become a member.

2. You are an expert at what you do

Note that being an expert does not mean you need to be a world authority!

3. You can hold a conversation

There are now two possibilities;

- a. You are comfortable with presenting to groups

What you now need is a 30-45 minute presentation on your chosen topic (for hints on how to find your topic, see 'Becoming a Professional Speaker' which you can find on the resources page of the IfPS website - [www.ifps.org.uk](http://www.ifps.org.uk)) Having created and rehearsed your talk get in front of some groups and deliver it a few times. At one of these groups you should have yourself videoed so that you can submit evidence of your level of ability when you register with the IfPS.

- b. You are a complete beginner in the presentation field

What you need is some training! The IfPS runs one- and two-day workshops for aspiring speakers and we will be happy to discuss how these might help you at this stage. However, there are some excellent organisations that can help you whether or not you attend any IfPS workshops.

Toastmasters International – [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

The Association of Speaking Clubs - [www.the-asc.org.uk](http://www.the-asc.org.uk)

Both organisations will encourage and develop your abilities. They will give you opportunities to speak regularly and have your work supportively evaluated by experienced speakers. Membership fees are very reasonable and there will definitely be a group meeting regularly near to you!

Note that, if you should opt to take any IfPS workshops, you will be strongly encouraged to join one of the above organisations – so why not find a group near you and visit them now!

Once you have had some experience delivering presentations – go back to a. above!

*If you would like to discuss, or you need advice about, any aspects of presenting/speaking or the speaking business, please email the IfPS initially at [info@ifps.org.uk](mailto:info@ifps.org.uk)*