

Lyon English Toastmasters

Speech and Leadership (Association 1901)

LET it happen!

A Toastmasters event is built on both expected and unexpected things. It follows strong traditions, organisation and rules. In each meeting you will be able to meet people with free minds creativity expressing themselves about the topics they have chosen and prepared. In certain cases our toastmasters will find themselves speaking “Impromptu” about topics they neither know about nor have prepared. Those “impromptu” speeches are the keystone of the Toastmaster training and meetings. We are surprised and often have a lot of fun watching how the speakers manage to develop on the surprise subject.

People who attend our meetings participate in an international, worldwide organization born over 90 years ago. With that length of time one can imagine how the education program has developed and evolved over all those years especially for our main topics: public communication and leadership.

From improvised speeches to prepared ones, through roles of expression and leadership, a Toastmaster member grows and develops his or her oral communication skills and most of all confidence. We call this the [Toastmaster Journey](#) and it has happened all over the world in thousands of clubs.

Lyon English Toastmasters is a club that works exclusively in English. From the moment you come in you’ll find everybody agrees to speak in English no matter how good they are.

Twice a month, members and visitors share their desire to improve themselves in English spoken communication and in coming regularly they become confident at expressing themselves in a more fluid, rich and dynamic English.

We are available to explain who we are, how a meeting is run, what the different training manuals are all about, how the organization works, right down to details of the officer meetings...

A Member’s Experience on Malta

As I wrote in the previous newsletter, I had the opportunity to visit the [Toastmasters Malta Club](#). Malta (a small Island close to Sicily in

Italy) is a predominantly English speaking country.

As a member and part of this worldwide organization, I was warmly received as a part of their group. One of their members was even kind enough to drive me to and from the venue; another member was generous enough to show me the island by night.

On the way back I was treated as an important guest, they were all very polite and kind to me. For this I am extremely grateful. Whilst with them they asked me to constructively criticize their meeting and how they can improve.

It was very humble of them because from what I saw they were all very good speakers, so many curious and eager people who were all trying to become as good as the more experienced members.

They suggested that I evaluate one of their speakers (a speech about “Why should we care about the differences between bees and wasps”). A daunting task as they had an audience of more than 30 people, executives, politicians, students, people running their own business and other diverse origins and I had to speak to all of them. First evaluating the speaker and then giving my feedback on the meeting. I actually felt safe, confident, like I knew the place because their organisation is (as any Toastmasters meeting should be) similar to other clubs such as our own club with little differences which I’ll call the ‘personality’ of the club.

I spoke twice, I got the job done and of course I spotted things I could improve but as a young member, (one year in the club) I feel I’ve improved so much. A foreign country, a foreign language, new people and some very, very impressive Toastmasters. Nevertheless I did it, I delivered my message and I understand how much I will thrive as a public speaker especially considering how my public speaking has improved in only one year.

What kind of speaker will I be in two, three or five years?

I hope to be as good as those who have impressed and inspired me so much, simply because they have walked the same path I’m currently walking.