



THE KING'S SPEECH

The King's Speech is a 2010 British historical drama film directed by **Tom Hooper** and written by **David Seidler**. **Colin Firth** plays King George VI who, to cope with a stammer, sees Lionel Logue, an Australian speech and language therapist played by **Geoffrey Rush**. The men become friends as they work together, and after his brother abdicates the throne, the new King relies on Logue to help him make his first wartime radio broadcast on Britain's declaration of war on Germany in 1939.

Warm-up discussion.

– Do you like speaking in public?	– What advice would you give to someone who has to speak in public for the first time?
– How do you feel when you have to speak in public?	– Do you know anyone who is a really good public speaker? What makes them such a good speaker?
– When was the first time you had to speak in public? How did you feel? Did it go well?	– Are there any politicians who you think are good speakers? What makes them good speakers?
– Can you remember an occasion when you spoke in public and it went well? Why did it go well?	– Have you ever had to speak in English in public? How did you feel?
– How do you prepare for speaking in public?	– How would you prepare for speaking in English in public?

CHARACTERS

Bertie (The Duke of York)	King George V's second son who suffers from a speech disorder
Lady Elizabeth	Bertie's supportive wife
Lionel Logue	A speech therapist and a failed actor
Myrtle Logue	Wife of Lionel Logue
King George V	The British King and father of Bertie and David
Prince David (The Prince of Wales)	King George V's oldest son who is in love with Wallis Simpson
Wallis Simpson	An American woman who is dating Prince David
The Archbishop	An advisor to the royal family and the leader of the Church of England
Winston Churchill	A leading member of the British Parliament

SCENE 1

Bertie (soon to be King George VI) meets Lionel Logue, the speech therapist, for the first time.

ACTIVE VOCABULARY

VOCABULARY PREVIEW - PART ONE (00:00 - 38:44)

1. Stammer:
 - a. The fear of public speaking
 - b. The ability to give great speeches
 - c. A speech disorder that causes a person to pause while speaking
2. "My turf":
 - a. Slang term for the space between your toes
 - b. Territory belonging to someone
 - c. A special couch used by doctors
3. Discretion:
 - a. To destroy
 - b. Not revealing private information
 - c. Ignoring your responsibilities
4. Unorthodox:
 - a. Dangerous
 - b. Embarrassing
 - c. Breaking away from tradition
5. A physician
 - a. A physical education teacher
 - b. A doctor
 - c. An advisor to a king
6. A defect
 - a. An old fashioned radio
 - b. An error or imperfection
 - c. A very strong fear of something
7. "Now we must invade people's home and ingratiate ourselves with them."
 - a. To make someone pleased with something
 - b. To explain clearly
 - c. To make money
8. Flawlessly
 - a. To complete a task over a long period of time
 - b. To be difficult to understand
 - c. To do something without any mistakes

1. Discuss the meaning of the words below and use them in the sentences.

worship / haughty / nervous / impatient magnificent fancy / elegant / poised
/ frantic / tacky / stammer / impediment / sublime / shilling / wager

2. Choose the correct word(s) to complete each of these statements. Underline your choice.

1. Lionel's son is named:
a. Willy b. Paul c. James d. Colin
2. What pseudonym did Bertie and Elizabeth use?
a. The Smiths b. The Johnsons c. The O'Briens d. The Franks
3. How did Bertie want to be addressed?
a. Your King b. Your Highness c. Your Majesty d. Your Prince
4. How old was Bertie when he started to stammer?
a. three years old b. four years old c. thirteen years old d. fourteen years old
5. Where is Lionel from?
a. England b. Australia c. Canada d. the United States

SCENE 2

Lionel and Bertie prepare for the coronation.

ACTIVE VOCABULARY

1. Discuss the meaning of the words below and use them in the sentences.

coronation / throne / Royal Highness / defective / audience / cue cards / saddle / crown

2. Watch scene 2. Read each statement taken from the film script and decide who said the line:

a. Bertie b. Lionel c. Elizabeth d. Lang

1. Who said, "You've saddled this country with a voiceless King!"?	4. Who said, "It's easy. Four short responses, kiss the book, sign the papers"?
2. Who said, "Impressive armchair!"?	5. Who said, "No training, no qualifications, just a great deal of nerve!"?
3. Who said, "My concern is for the head on which I place the crown."?	6. Who said, "It looks very beautiful, doesn't it?"

Slang Expressions

"to pop by"	
"pop these on"	

“strong suit”	
“my turf” “hubby”	
“stare it square in the eye”	
“stared square in to his father’s face”	

Match the following words to their definitions.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. stammer ___ 2. discretion (n)___ 3. unorthodox (adj)___ 4. to pop by (v)___ 5. my turf ___ 6. strong suit ___ 7. square in the eye/face___ 8. indentured servitude___ 9. inane (adj) ___ 10. audition (n) ___ 11. approach (n)___ 12. physician (n)___ 13. to commence (v) ___ 14. defect (n)___ 15. impediment (n) ___ 16. flawlessly (adv)___ 17. to wager (v)___ 18. to ingratiate (v)___ 19. schilling (n) ___ 20. to intimidate (v) 21. abyss (n)___ 22. awkward (adj) ___ 23. invariably (adv) ___ 24. firm (n) ___ 25. appreciate (v) ___ 26. method (n) ___ 27. immoral (adj) ___ 28. divorced (adj) ___ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Directly in the eye or face b) Perfectly; with no mistakes c) A try-out for a play or performance d) To quickly stop by a place e) To bet f) A medical doctor g) Work where the employee works in exchange for benefits such as travel and housing. The employee cannot leave the contract. h) A dark, bottomless hole i) A speech disorder that causes a person to pause while speaking j) Not revealing private information k) To make others pleased with something l) An imperfection or flaw m) Breaking away from tradition n) My territory o) To start, to begin p) An obstacle q) A coin used in the UK worth 1/20 of a pound r) A method s) To force some to do something with fear and threats t) A person’s strengths u) Stupid, silly v) Another word for a company or business w) Another word for “always” x) Describes something uncomfortable or embarrassing y) A way of doing things z) To value something
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HOW TO OVERCOME THE FEAR OF SPEAKING IN PUBLIC

- 1) **Realize the source.** The source of your fear is this: not knowing what will happen when you are in front of people, giving your speech or presentation. Your fear is not that you don't know your topic. It is that you don't know what will happen when you step to the podium or table.
- 2) **Face Down Your Fears.** If you feel your knees turning to jelly out of fear, remind yourself that fear stands for False Evidence Appearing Real. Almost certainly, whatever it is that you're frightened of won't happen.
- 3) **Breathe Deeply.** Practicing a breathing exercise before you go on will relax your body and mind.
- 4) **Relax.** Relaxing is the art of letting go.
- 5) **Recognize that people can't see your nervousness.** When you're walking out onto the stage toward the podium, no one knows you're nervous.



- 6) **Practice.** Speaking on a topic that you are not familiar with will increase your stress, and impede on your performance.
- 7) **Buy some recording software, and record everything on your laptop.** Review it to see where you can improve.
- 8) **Prepare.** Make sure you know the material that you're going to cover.
- 9) **Keep it simple.** Avoid putting pressure on yourself by trying to communicate too many ideas or too much information.
- 10) **Think of it as a conversation.** Think of your 'talk' as just that, a conversation with more than person.