

# The Fool Speaks, and The Wise Listens

## Outline

### 1. Introduction <sup>speaks</sup>

people who ~~speaks~~ without a check are making themselves fool in other's eyes, while the wise listens to others with patience and his acumen for self growth.

### 2. Why does the fool speak extensively?

a) Lack of sensitivity

(Quote by Benjamin Franklin)

b) Attempting to cover their loopholes due to lack of knowledge

(A thorough view by Democritus)

c) Are quick-tempered

(Noam Chomsky's insight)

d) Holds high opinions on themselves

(Example of Pakistan's politicians)

### 3. Despite the capacity to speak, why the wise choose to listen?

a) To examine the individual intent of him to adopt or refrain some of his actions



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- b) To analyze the society to learn living with diverse perspectives
- c) To live as cool as cucumber on domestic level — a key to successful marriage.
- d) On institutional level — to better cooperate with employees or administration
- e) On political level — a good leader has the quality to actively listens
- f) On organizational level — listening to the perspectives and interests of other nations
- g) The wise listens, as hearing different voices in the world brings clarity to spirituality.

#### 4. Speaking vs listening.

- a) A balanced approach:
- i) Speaking shows charm — a stage sign of leadership
  - ii) listening to counter arguments — a challenging feat
  - iii) speaking without thinking brings excitement and energy to conversation
  - iv) listening at length, often difficult, draining, and boring.

#### 5. Conclusion



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I still remember the day, when I was chasing my cousin. She was purposely avoiding me with a bored expression on her face. The reason behind this indeed my glibulous

nature. My mom, while wandering around, witnessed the scenario.

it is interesting start what suggest is that to write some universally accepted

she called me, and I hurriedly went to her. She softly touched my cheek, and said, "My dear! If you are underweight,

universally accepted anecdotes

a stone around your neck to become heavy." I quickly got the meaning of her saying. I asked, "How?" She smiled and replied, "Speak less, listen more."

One of the African <sup>proverb</sup> quote, "The fool speaks, and the wise listens," has proved that indeed the more one speaks, the more they reveal their limitations, and the less one speaks, the more they elevate themselves. People who speak without a check are making themselves fool in other's eyes, while the wise listen to others with patience and his acumen for self-growth.



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As plato has aptly said, "A wise man speaks because he has something to say; a fool because he has to say something." Nevertheless, it is not always the case that the talkers are fools and listeners, wise. For adept speech is a quality of skilful leaders, and listening for hours on end can drain a person of his energy and make him grumpy.

To begin with, here a question arise: why a fool tends to speak excessively, or why excessive talking often causes individuals to appear foolish? Among the various underlying reasons the foremost is a lack of sensitivity.

The lack of sensitivity often manifests as an inability to gauge the relevance, timing, or appropriateness of their words, leading to excessive talking. He lacks the insight about any given topic of discussion, and thus, his words are nothing but mumbo-jumbo. Benjamin



Franklin elaborates it by saying, "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do." It means speaking at length is the common trait of fools. To sum it up, foolish people lack the sense of time, place, and company before speaking.

Likewise, a fool talks extensively to cover the gaps between his knowledge and believing

that excessive words can mask his lack of understanding.

This behaviour stems from the insecurities and desire to appear knowledgeable. Despite their ignorance and proper understanding of a particular issue, such people have excessive reliance on

verbasity. They do so to distract the people from noticing their ignorance. However, this strategy often backfires, as their lengthy explanation free from depth and coherence, expose the very deficiencies they aim to conceal.

This attempt highlights the perception of foolishness. Democritus has advocated for the same by saying

write short sentences please



“people who keep talking talk, for they are scared of getting silent and being proven wrong.” In

summation, a fool speaks extensively to cover his loopholes due to lack of knowledge.

Due to the non-stop chain of meaningless talks, fools are often trapped in the shackles of naivety. They are mostly quick tempered. They failed to develop a sense of reasoning and respecting other's opinions, because they are not use to hear others. That's the reason when they get into some arguments with others; they are ready to blow a fuse. They react very quickly and extremely negatively, the reason for which is well-explained in Noam Chomsky's words, “When fools speak, the wise listen, but when the wise speak, the fools argue.”

At last, fools speak extensively because they hold high opinions on themselves. They believe that their opinions are of great value. This overconfidence blinds them to their



own limitations, and compels them to dominate the conversation. For instance, many politicians in Pakistan are known for delivering lengthy, self-centered speeches which are not only lack substance and solutions, but also it often reinforces their foolish image. In a nutshell, fools speak extensively because they overestimate their own importance and knowledge.

In the same fashion, another question arises that despite the capacity to speak meaningfully, why the wise refrains from speaking and choose to listen? Because, the wise examines every act of the individual (speaker) standing in front of him. A wise man has the ability to notice all the traits of the fool to refrain from flying in the face of morality and ethics. Similarly, the wise has also the power to gain a gold coin of any good quality of the speaker. This can be elaborated in words of Socrates, "Wise men learn more from fools than fools from wise men." In short, wise choose to



Listen to examine the speaker.

Similarly, as society is likened to a beehive, with the only difference lying in the hum — united among the bees, but diverse among the people. To truly comprehend the hum of a society, one must listen intently. The wise is doing nothing but analyze the society to comprehend the diverse perspective, sprinkled in the society. The wise listens to various points of views to get accustomed with them. Thus, to live a prosperous life in the society, the one, who listens is identified as a wise.

Someone joked that marriage comes with a free gift from the wife — a mute button for the husband's mouth. Perhaps this refers to the fact that in every successful marriage, the husband is either a great listener or a strategic nodder. Moving away from humor, and discuss this seriously, not only husbands but wives should also be good listeners.



In a happy married life, more listening leads to establish the peace on domestic level. This can prevent various issues like divorce, separation, violence, and misunderstandings. In this regard prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said,

**"The best of you is the one who is best to his family, and I am the best among you to my family." (Tirmidhi)**

To end this discussion, to live as cool as cucumber is a key to successful marriage, and fosters peace on domestic level.

Additionally, to better cooperate with employees or administration, the wise listens attentively. Several studies and surveys highlighted the importance of listening over speaking in the workplace. Listening to others holds great significance for wise people on an institutional level. When those in authority pay heed to what their subordinates say, the subordinates feel greatly empowered and more motivated to do a good job. To support the stance, research



by the employee satisfaction index proves that employees who feel heard and valued by their managers are four times more likely to be satisfied with their jobs, and thus perform better. In short, listening to the employees and administration is significant for a wise to cooperate better.

Apart from the institutional level, listening has also significant role in good leadership. They say aptly, "True nature hides beneath the veil, Revealed through life's enduring tale. To know the heart, the soul, the mind, Live by their side, and truth you will find." This saying emphasized the fact that the more one listens, the more he will become familiar with other's behaviour, views, and demands. For good leadership, listening plays an important role. To sum it up, a wise choose to listen more, because being a good leader, listening is the prior quality of him.



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Despite possessing the capacity to articulate their viewpoints, wise organizations often prioritize listening to understand the perspectives and interests of other nations. This approach reflects maturity and strategic thinking as it fosters trust, minimizes conflict, and encourages mutual respect in international relations. By listening, organizations can identify shared goals, cultural nuances, and underlying concerns, enabling them to craft solutions that are inclusive and sustainable. This practice not only strengthens diplomatic ties, but also enhances an organization's credibility and effectiveness on the global stage, proving that listening is a powerful tool for fostering cooperation and progress.

At last, there are moments in life when the voice of the soul falls silent and the path ahead is veiled in an impenetrable mist. In such times, a person may wander onto a road where the first casualty is their bond with the divine. A loss so profound that it



echoes in the emptiness of their being. As they traverse this misguided path, a haunting awareness dawns upon them, revealing the gravity of their misstep. The journey back, however, is fraught with even deeper uncertainty, as the way seems to recede further into obscurity. It is in this existential struggle that they must summon the divine gift of introspection, silencing the clamor of the world to attune themselves to the whispers, quiet yet luminous, guide them toward the transcendent light of spirituality. Thus, it becomes evident that the art of listening, a virtue of the truly wise, is not merely a safeguard, but the compass that orients the soul towards its eternal source.

Once again, the question arises: is listening always the mark of wisdom, and speaking a sign of foolishness? If one adopts a balanced approach, the answer is no. As they say, life is like a ~~camp~~

compass over basic language is fine good



too much salt ruins it, and too little does the same. Here, salt represents both listening and speaking. The art lies in using each in proportion to the demands of the moment, a true hallmark of intellect and wisdom. To begin the discussion about this balanced approach, the first stance is speaking shows charm: a sign of leadership. Effective communication is the cornerstone of impactful leadership, where speaking becomes not just an act but a craft that exudes charm and influence. A leader's words have the power to inspire, motivate, and unify people toward a common vision. The ability to speak eloquently and persuasively reflects confidence, clarity, and understanding of diverse perspectives - qualities that resonate with followers and build trust. When used wisely, speaking becomes more than mere expression; it becomes a tool for shaping ideas, addressing challenges, and fostering a sense of direction. A charismatic speaker does not just command attention; they ignite



actions, proving that the art of speaking is indeed a defining mark of true leadership.

conversely, listening to counterarguments is undeniably a challenging feat, as it demands patience, humility, and a willingness to question one's own convictions. It requires setting aside ego and emotional bias to engage with opposing views objectively. Indeed it becomes difficult, because it is not easy task to let down your opinions and perspective with sprinkling ego on it.

On the other hand, speaking without thinking can bring a unique excitement and energy to a conversation. It allows for spontaneity, making interactions more lively and engaging. When people speak without overthinking, they often express their true thoughts and emotions, leading to more genuine and heartfelt exchanges. This impulsive style can break the monotony of formal discussions, adding a refreshing



unpredictability. In short, speaking without thinking brings commitment and energy to the conversation unlike listening at length can often be difficult, draining and boring. It requires sustained focus and concentration, which can be exhausting, especially when the content is complex or repetitive. Many people find it challenging to maintain attention over extended periods, leading to feelings of fatigue and disengagement. This can diminish the overall quality of communication. In summation, listening at length may drain out someone of his energy, especially when the conversation contains irrelevant information.

In conclusion, the proverb 'The fool speaks and the wise listens' holds an ocean of intellectual perspectives. It provides that the hallmark to gain the pearls of mature, sensible, and prosperous life, it is essential to listen more and speak less. It not only enhances



a person's allure, but also serves as a facilitator in making their life more seamless. Listening is like a dinghy to navigate the turbulent water of life's complexities. On the other hand, speaking without listening to others appears him as a fool, who lacks sensitivity. A fool has no sense of that how to speak, and when to speak. However, it is not necessary that a fool always speak, and a wise listens. It depends on the demand of the time. The true wise is a person who knows when to speak and when to listen. To end this lengthy discussion, ~~where~~ ~~Despite~~ despite the difference in the weight of listening and speaking, one must navigate the ways to balance them.

