

THE EXCELORATOR



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The Concept of Self - Bob Wolff, DTM

Whenever we hear the word "self," all too often we think of someone being selfish, or self-centered; usually not good qualities to have.

But there are many other words or phrases that contain the word "self" which are positive and good qualities to possess; indeed qualities that are essential to one's being, one's happiness, and success in life. The following is a list of such qualities: Self-confidence, self-esteem, self-reliance, self-motivated, self-respect, self-pride, self-assurance, self-improvement, and self-starter.

These are the qualities that joining Toastmasters can help you develop, enhance, and maintain to help your "self" to become a better person. •TM•

Member Spotlight - Juan Hernandez

Fellow members and "The Excelorator" readers. I am grateful to have the opportunity to expand the ripple effect that Toastmasters has had on my development in communication and in leadership.

Having learned a habit that preached proactivity, I took the initiative and requested information regarding Toastmasters. I was pleased to find that the Toastmasters Mission Statement focuses on personal growth, something that I believe we all need. For any potential future member, and as a reminder to current members, the Toastmasters Mission reads: We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in

greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Personal growth speaks to me a great deal. I thought to myself: "why not take on a club that will be supportive and also empower me to develop a significantly important tool for being human...? Communication!"

Communication is something that we all use in daily interactions. I attest that my communication skills were sub-par prior to joining Toastmasters. I often found myself in complicated situations because of the way that I expressed myself. The way that I carried myself also led to altercations and broken relationships and broken friendships.

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Member Spotlight

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I have learned that communication is not only verbal, but also requires listening and paying attention to your body language. Toastmasters has taught me the importance of listening when it comes to communication. When you listen in communication you are giving respect to your fellow man/woman. This is very important because when you speak you expect to be heard, to be listened to, and to be given the respect that what you have to say has substance and purpose.

Toastmasters values have helped me to
R.I.S.E

R- Respect other people.
I- Integrity for yourself is key.
S- Service for others. And,
E- Excellence for everyone.

I have made a commitment to Toastmasters, and the club has committed to me. Because of that commitment, I again invite the readers of this article to be affected by the ripple of positivity that the club can, and has brought to myself and many others. If you're not a member, I invite you to join us so that I might be of service to you.

Respectfully, A proud Excelorators member.
•TM•

An Interview with George Volz, DIM, Club Mentor
- Billy Barritt

How long have you been in Toastmasters?

Since November of 1998.

What is your role in Toastmasters?

I have several roles. I am a member of three clubs. In two of these clubs, I serve as the Vice President of Education. For District 24, until July 1st, I served as the District Director. The District Director coordinates the effort to support and build new clubs in the district. For the Excelorators, I serve as the Club Mentor. A Club Mentor helps new clubs build a strong foundation.

What do you involve in Toastmasters?

The need to communicate more effectively.

Why have you stayed involved for so long?

I believe that education and learning is not a one time and then done event. Each day we need to learn. Toastmasters provides that opportunity.

How widely is Toastmasters known?

Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development. Our organization has more than 352,000 memberships. Members improve their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of the 16,400 clubs in 141 countries that make up our global network of meeting locations. The world needs leaders. Leaders head families, coach teams, run businesses, and mentor others. These leaders must not only accomplish, they must communicate. By regularly giving speeches, gaining feedback, leading teams, and guiding others to achieve their goals in a supportive atmosphere, leaders emerge from the Toastmasters program. Every Toastmasters' journey begins with a single speech. During their journey, they learn to tell their stories. They listen and answer. They plan and lead. They give feedback—and accept it. Through our community of learners, they find their path to leadership.

-Continued on page 3.



Geore Volz Interview
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How many clubs are in Nebraska?

Most of Nebraska is in District 24. District 24 has 5 Divisions. The Divisions have 3 or 4 Areas, for a total of 19 Areas. Each Area has 4 to 6 clubs for a total of 77 clubs in Nebraska.

What was your first thought when you heard that TSCI wanted to open not one, but two clubs after not having a Toastmasters club for over 2 years?

I thought it was an opportunity to serve an unmet need.

What was the biggest obstacle or challenge to chartering the Excelorators club?

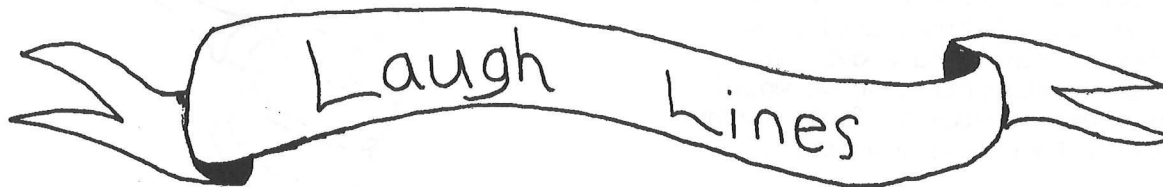
Learning to work in a new environment, which is the opportunity that faces anyone building a new club. One of the unique things about the Excelorators was the structure of the environment

As a club, what are your impressions of the Excelorators?

I feel the club is motivated to learn and grow. Both the individual members and the group.

Where do you see the future of the Excelorators club?

I believe that the Excelorators can provide a vehicle to improve the communication and leadership of all who join. I believe that each of us has a talent that needs to be shared for the betterment of all. I feel that The Excelorators has that vision, will continue to grow and will be a positive difference for years to come. •TM•



Why do cherry trees smell?
- Because George Washington cut one!

What did the buffalo say when he dropped his kid off at school?
- Bi...son!

Did you know that coffee can cause blindness?
- You know, if you leave the spoon in the mug.

Sadly, Stacey is thier best player



The Grammarian's Corner - It's All In The Units

- Robert Heist II, VP Public Relations

Most of the Time we make grammar decisions based off of intuition developed over a lifetime of speaking a language. But if we have to explain the rules to someone learning our language we are often at a loss. We stretch our memories back to some teacher droning on about the subjunctive case. Was that teacher even speaking English? No wonder we can't remember the explicit rules that come instinctively to us. The purpose of the Grammarian's Corner is to help explain those rules more simply to make them easier to remember.

For example, most of us reflexively know when to use fewer or less. "I took less time to finish than he did" just wouldn't feel right as "I took fewer time..." But why is that? The rule is actually really simple: If the thing you are comparing (time in the above example) is stated in distinct measurable units, then you would use fewer, otherwise you use less. Time is not a distinct measurable unit (where minutes, a measure OF time, are) so we use less. Minutes as mentioned above, are distinct, measurable units, so we would say "I took fewer minutes to finish than he did," not "I took less minutes..."

Recommended Reading

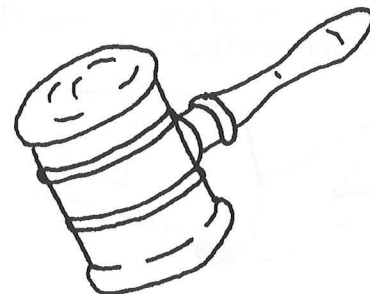
- Robert Heist II, VP Public Relations

Even our small library here at TSCI has books that can help you in Toastmasters. My first recommendation would be "The Art of Public Speaking" by Stephen E. Lucas (809.9/LUC/ART) which is a speech communications textbook covering everything from the history of public speaking to researching, writing and delivering a speech. I used it as the source for the five speech structures (page 210) that I used in my "Speech #2."

Here are some more examples:

- I drank fewer glasses of milk today
- Nebraska has less area than Texas
- Nebraska has fewer square miles of area than Texas
- He has less time to serve than me
- He has fewer years to serve than me

One potentially confusing situation is when you refer to numbers. "One is less than two" correctly uses less, but why? Because numbers are not measurements. "One cup of flour is fewer than two cups" uses measurements so it uses the word fewer. The difference between less and few is all in the units. •TM•



Another book in our library that can help you with all kinds of speaking is "WRITE better, SPEAK better" by Reader's Digest. (808.0REA/WRI). Part three -How to speak better- covers conversational speaking to formal speaking and has articles like 'How to Pick Your Subject' and 'The Secret of Good Delivery' (By Dale Carnegie, a noted public speaker).

If you have a useful resource please share it with us. •TM•



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Publication Information

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