Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events

Talking is, of course, a ubiquitous human activity. In schools, students talk to one another in the classroom, on the playground, or in the lunchroom. Teachers talk to give instruction or to counsel students. Students talk to teachers to respond to questions or to express a concern. Describing different types of talking is one way to bring exceptional expressions into everyday events.

The word *talk* can be used as a verb as well as a noun. *To talk* is to communicate verbally, through speaking rather than writing. Since the way we talk carries with it our emotions and goals, spoken communication can take many forms. Shouting, whispering, and preaching convey very different attitudes on the part of the speaker, which in turn will affect the reactions of those who hear what is said.

*Talk* as a noun is the act of verbally communicating. A teacher can have a talk with his or her students about bullying. As with the verb *talk*, there are a variety of synonyms for the noun *talk*. For example, a teacher can have a serious discussion or conversation about bullying.

Follow-Ups

- How is articulating different from talking?
- How might a discussion be different from an utterance? A speech?

The Spanish Connection

*Talk* comes from a Middle English word, *talkien* or *talken*. The Spanish word for *to talk* is *hablar*. *Hablar* is not a Spanish cognate of *to talk*.

Word Changes

- Some synonyms of *talk* are also used as both verbs and nouns, for example, *chat*, *lecture*, and *gossip*.
- Many of the idioms and common phrases for *talk* incorporate the mannerism and intent of the speaker. For example, a person who “talks big” is someone who is boasting. “To talk in circles” is to repeat the same idea in a different manner that reveals nothing new and may even confuse the listener.
Talk

Talk as in
a conversation
(noun)
• conversation
• chat
• discussion
• slang
• dialogue
• chatter
• lecture
• address
• speech
• meeting
• conference
• summit
• utterance
• gossip
• comment
• debate

Talk as in
to speak casually
(verb)
• chat/chatter
• scuttlebutt
• gossip
• comment
• smooze
• mention
• say
• utter
• remark

Talk as in
to speak (verb)
• speak
• verbalize
• converse
• vocalize
• articulate
• communicate
• confer
• dialogue

Talk as in
to speak in a
specific way (verb)
• whisper
• flirt
• snap
• shout
• yell
• orate
• lecture
• pontificate
• address
• drone
• stammer
• bark
• slur
• bay
• jabber
• chant
• preach
• boast
• debate
• enunciate
• pronounce
• question
• ask
• declare

COMMON PHRASES
• Talk to me
• Talk back
• Talk over
• We need to talk

THE SPANISH CONNECTION
• conversation / conversación
• discussion / discusión
• to discuss / discutir
• dialogue / diálogo
• to have a dialogue / dialogar
• comment / comentario
• to comment / comentar
• to mention / mencionar
• to verbalize / verbalizar
• to converse / conversar
• to communicate / comunicar
• communication / comunicación
• pronounce / pronunciar
• to debate / debatir
• debate / debate
• enunciate / enunciar
• pronounce / pronunciar
• declare / declarar

IDIOMS
• Talk a mile a minute
• Spit it out
• Talk big
• Talk sense
• Dance around the topic
• Speak up
• Talk it up
• Talk down
• Talk is cheap
• Talk it over
• Talking to a brick wall
• Talk of the town
• Small talk
• Speak of the devil
• Sweet talk
• Talk your ear off
• Talk in circles/riddles
• Talk shop
• Walk the talk
• Talk your way out of a paper bag
• Talk until your blue in the face
• You’re a fine one to talk
• Shooting the breeze
Talk

Morphological Family for Talk

Inflected Endings
- talks\(^n\)
- talked\(^v\)
- talking\(^v\)

Derivational Suffixes
- talker\(^v\)
- talkative\(^v\)

Compound Words

*Talk used as a noun*
- pep talk
- sweet talk

*Talk used as a verb*
- fast talker
- talk show
- walkie-talkie
- talking point
- small talk
- crosstalk
- talking head
- baby talk

"Talk used as a noun
\(^v\) Talk used as a verb
Morphological Family for Talk