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Hi, Do you usually say: "I did a presentation on..." or "I made a presentation on" "I did a speech on..." or "I made a speech on" I made a presentation. I made a speech or gave a speech. I have heard people use "did" in both instances, but it's a bit off. 2 questions: 1. Do we say "make" a speech or "give" a speech ?? (We do say give a talk, right?) 2. Do "speech" and "talk" differ somehow?? (I mean when they both refer to someone addressing an audience, I m not refering to the other senses of the words) For example, is "talk" more suitable for an academic presentation (I suppose it is)? Then in which cases is "speech" more suitable? Thanks! Last edited: Jan 28, 2010 I think I would make a speech and give a talk. I'll check the corpora in a minute or so. Speech/talk? A speech is often a part of some kind of event and may be quite short (hopefully). In those circumstances it has a purpose related to the event. Opening/closing something, welcoming/thanking people, etc. A talk is more like a lecture or presentation of your thoughts. BNC: give a speech - 9 make a speech - 37 give a talk - 28 make a talk - 0 COCA give a speech - 203 make a speech - 134 give a talk - 60 make a talk - 4 Interesting. BNC - British National Corpus COCA - Corpus of Contemporary American English Last edited: Jan 28, 2010 Thank you very much for your reply! So, we just spotted another British/American English difference..interesting indeed! Last edited: Jan 28, 2010 Actually, I think "to make a speech" is rarely used in American English these days. Maybe it was more frequent ten years ago. Here's some support for that idea: American English setting. (The BE results are similar but less pronounced - assuming you can trust the data to be divided properly, which is an open question with ngrams.) Google Books Ngram Viewer So,..., Looking for definitions explaining the differences between a speech and a talk (notice the nouns, not the verbs) A speech can be more formal than a talk and is often part of a larger event. There is most likely a purpose attached to it like the best man's speech at a UK wedding where the Best man is supposed to talk about the groom, or the inaugural address of US presidents where the President presents his ideas for his mandate to the audience. A talk... A talk is maybe a smaller event and less formal (but not necessarily informal). A talk is a presentation of someone's thoughts or ideas, perhaps with the idea of discussion. I'm thinking Ted talks...Would you agree? Anything to add? Thanks to Panjandrum for his/ her contribution here I think you've pretty-much answered your own question! But I would stress that the size of the audience and the venue both come into it too. At a local level in the UK, if you're hired to address members of a group or club, or the residents of a home, you're being asked to give a talk on a certain topic - but you'll be kept on record as a potential "speaker" at such events. And if you're one of several speakers at a formal gathering, such as a local business or sporting organisation's annual dinner, or some other best-bib-and-tucker function, you're being asked to give a speech and will find yourself "delivering a speech" at that event. Great, thanks for that I think a talk is often more about presenting information and a speech is more about promoting ideas and often persuading people of something. A talk at a scientific convention presents the information from the latest lab experiments, for example. There might be a question and answer session afterwards (or possibly even questions during). I don't think there are usually questions and answers after a speech. With a speech, the person says what they say and leaves you to think about it. Like I said, it's often, as in politics, an attempt to persuade or motivate. A talk doesn't have that goal, I don't think. I think a talk is often more about presenting information and a speech is more about promoting ideas and often persuading people of something. A talk at a scientific convention presents the information from the latest lab experiments, for example. There might be a question and answer session afterwards (or possibly even questions during). I don't think there are usually questions and answers after a speech. With a speech, the person says what they say and leaves you to think about it. Like I said, it's often, as in politics, an attempt to persuade or motivate. A talk doesn't have that goal, I don't think. I think your first sentence is a good summary, although a speech is not always to promote ideas or persuade people... Speeches at a wedding for example, not unless you see it as someone trying to persuade people that the groom is a good guy and the father of the bride is happy with the match Yes, we could add the concept of commemorating something as a category of a speech. Many speeches are commemorations of a person or of historical events. I think a wedding speech would fall into that category. It wouldn't be nearly as good a fit to call something like that a talk. My English teachers since elementary taught me how to use A and AN properly, but lately, when I am writing a letter, the auto correct grammarly that I installed in my computer corrected my letter from AN SPEECH to A SPEECH. What is the correct one? That's correct. There is no vowel sound at the beginning of 'speech'. But my English teachers say that if the first letter of the next word is vowel sound even if it is a consonant letter, you must've to say AN. Is that correct? I suspect you may have misunderstood that instruction? It's about how you pronounce the beginning of a word that follows the indefinite article. It has nothing to do with how the first letter of that word is pronounced on its own. "s" is a consonant — but the letter itself is pronounced "ess" (which begins with a vowel sound) "u" is a vowel — but the letter itself is pronounced like "you" (which begins with a consonant sound) But that has nothing to do with the general use of a or an. The indefinite article is "a". "An" is simply another version of it that's sometimes needed to aid pronunciation. It's about how words sound when you say them out loud. So the only time you need to use "an" is when the word that follows the indefinite article begins with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or sounds as though it does. Thus, a apple becomes an apple, a orange becomes an orange, a egg becomes an egg, etc. But must emphasise it is the initial SOUND that matters, not whether the first letter is a vowel or not. She is a university professor. He is a European politics specialist. She is an NYPD ballistics expert. Perhaps the Filipino accent causes you to pronounce "speech" as if it were "espeech." The standard pronunciation in English does not add the E sound. Perhaps the Filipino accent causes you to pronounce "speech" as if it were "espeech." The standard pronunciation in English does not add the E sound. This is what I would have guessed. Maybe it is because of Spanish influence. I suspect you may have misunderstood that instruction? It's about how you pronounce the beginning of a word that follows the indefinite article. It has nothing to do with how the first letter of that word is pronounced on its own. "s" is a consonant — but the letter itself is pronounced "ess" (which begins with a vowel sound) "u" is a vowel — but the letter itself is pronounced like "you" (which begins with a consonant sound) Each of those uses of "pronounced" is probably only more confusing. The letters aren't pronounced that way. They're named that way; those are their names, not their pronunciations/sounds. This is an especially important distinction if we're addressing a Spanish-speaker. Spanish-speakers often get so accustomed to words beginning with "es" and not with "s" that they can find it extremely difficult to adjust and correctly pronounce (or even imagine that it's possible to pronounce) foreign words which really do begin with just "s". Adding the "e" is so automatic that they don't even realize they're doing it because that would require first having a concept of the "s" not having an "e" before it. So the original question here could be based on a misconception that "s" is actually pronounced "es" despite the fact that it is not... in which case the most important thing to do in answering would be to emphasize that it is in fact not pronounced that way at all.

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