

When you're starting out

GREAT PLACES FOR BEGINNERS:

- Join **Toastmasters** (www.toastmasters.org) find a club that meets frequently and doesn't have too many members. That way you'll have more opportunities to speak. There's also much to be learned from watching other speakers and listening to them being evaluated.
- Contact your local Rotary Club
 (www.rotary.org) or similar communities.
- Women's Institute (www.thewi.org.uk)
- Schools
- Church or other organisations you belong to
- Open mic nights

When you have a bit more experience (1)

CONSIDER:

- Meetups (www.meetup.com) are gatherings organised all over the world and each meetup group has a particular theme. Go online and find groups in your local area that are related to your topic. Don't just email the organiser cold. Attend one or two of their meetings, get to know the organiser, and then ask if there are opportunities to speak.
- Create your own events and invite guest speakers. Have the speakers bring people along from their client base, get them to advertise your event to their list, or ask them to offer you a speaking slot at one of their own events.
- Multi-speaker events: you can find people with similar target markets and put on an event where all of you speak.
- Chambers of Commerce
- Women Speakers Association

 (www.womenspeakersassociation.com)

When you have a bit more experience (2)

CONSIDER:

- Networking clubs. You pay to join or to attend. They often rotate a speaking slot among the members, or you can go to different clubs within the same umbrella organisation and speak for 10 20 minutes. Examples are BNI (www.bni.com), Athena (www.theathenanetwork.co.uk), and many more.
- Volunteer at charities
- Run webinars
- Podcasts
- Summits
- Professional Speakers Association

 (www.thepsa.co.uk), National Speakers
 Association (www.nsaspeaker.org) and Global Speakers Federation
 (www.globalspeakersfederation.net). Network like crazy and make new speaker friends.
 Also, you might one day be invited to present at their meetings.
- Festivals

When you're a pro

YOU MIGHT STILL DO ALL OF THE ABOVE, AND ALSO CONSIDER:

- Conferences
- Association events
- Corporate events
- Network with pro speakers with a similar target market. Conference organisers can't use you every year—they need to rotate their speakers—so the organisers will appreciate it if you can refer speakers of a similar calibre to yourself.
- Speaker bureaus and agencies. Don't call them; they'll call you when there's sufficient buzz about you that you can't be ignored any longer.
- Find events you like the look of, contact the organiser to ask how you can apply to speak, and see what happens.
- AND DON'T FORGET GOOGLE :)

Final Thoughts

DON'T LOSE MOMENTUM. KEEP REFINING YOUR MESSAGE AND APPLYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES. GETTING SPEAKING GIGS REALLY IS A NUMBERS GAME.

WANT SOME SUPPORT TO HELP YOU GET OVER SPEAKING NERVES, DELIVER YOUR TALK LIKE A ROCKSTAR AND FIND MORE SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES?

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