

## Lesson 9 WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FORGET YOUR LINE?

Alright, you are delivering your speech, and suddenly something came into your mind that is totally out of your topic, now you're lost. What should you do now?

Are you going to stop and go back to the backstage and cry because you did not finish your speech and you hate yourself?

Many actually did that, they forgot their line, people started to cheer and they completely lost it, and then ran back stage crying while the audience were left wondering what happened.

I don't want you to experience this, it's a really bad feeling and you will lose all your confidence and even leads to depression and eventually you will hate public speaking the rest of your life.

I want you to become a successful and confident public speaker.

So here are my practical guidelines.

### **Scenario:**

You are on the stage delivering your well researched and well prepared speech, suddenly, you forgot what to say next and you're lost, completely lost.

### **What to do?**

1. The moment you forget what to say,
  - Pause for a while...
  - Get off the lectern or podium...
  - Walk a little bit on the stage with your eyes on your audience...

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- While walking, try to remember your trainings and rehearsals so you can recall the words and lines you were memorizing during that time...
  - Do not lose your eye contact with the audience...
  - Walk a little bit back to where you were, recall as fast as you could the next line you want to say...
  - This time you should have remembered your line...
  - Walk back to your original position, breathe; continue your speech with courage and confidence.
  - Finish it with power!
2. After all you did on the stage, walking back and forth, still you did not recall anything and you went blank.

### **Do these;**

- Forget about your speech and talk about the same topic in your own words.
- Deliver an impromptu speech to continue where you left off.
- Sometimes, the best speech is the unprepared speech because it comes out naturally in your mouth. No fancy words, just your everyday words.
- End your speech and say thank you.
- At this time, your audience is standing giving the best applause they could ever give to someone who forgot his speech but managed to finish it until the end.
- You yourself will feel like “Wow” I did it!

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Again, **NEVER APOLOGIZE** to your audience. The apology is not acceptable in speech delivery.

Great, you did it! Finally, you are done! It's a big accomplishment! One of the main reasons why speakers forget their lines is because they get nervous while on stage.

Even the best speakers in the world forget their lines and get nervous too, you're not alone.

How do we keep our nerve? Let's learn about that in the next lesson.