

Various grammar rules >> Speak, talk

Speak / talk	
<p>Speak and talk have similar meanings. They suggest that someone is using his voice, or that two or more people are having a discussion.</p> <p>We can say: speak to somebody talk to somebody speak to somebody about something talk to somebody about something</p>	<p><i>How old were you when you learned to speak?</i></p> <p><i>What are you talking about?</i></p> <p><i>Who were you speaking to on the phone?</i></p> <p><i>Who were you talking to on the phone?</i></p> <p><i>I was speaking to Mark about cricket.</i></p>
<p>But we say:</p> <p>speak a language NOT talk a language talk nonsense NOT speak nonsense.</p> <p>Speak to and talk to are used more often than speak with and talk with.</p>	<p><i>He speaks four languages.</i> <i>Stop talking nonsense!</i> <i>I was talking to Tom yesterday.</i></p>

Please note that *speak* is normally more formal than *talk*. You may say: *I'm talking on the phone*, but *I would like to speak to the manager*.

You *speak a language*, that is, *speak* implies the ability to make an utterance. *Talk* normally implies there is a listener (you *speak to an audience* but you *talk to a friend*).

Please DO NOT use *speak with* or *talk with* at this stage.

Education: the inculcation of the incomprehensible into the indifferent by the incompetent.

John Maynard Keynes