



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Our Words

## Language in Parliament 1

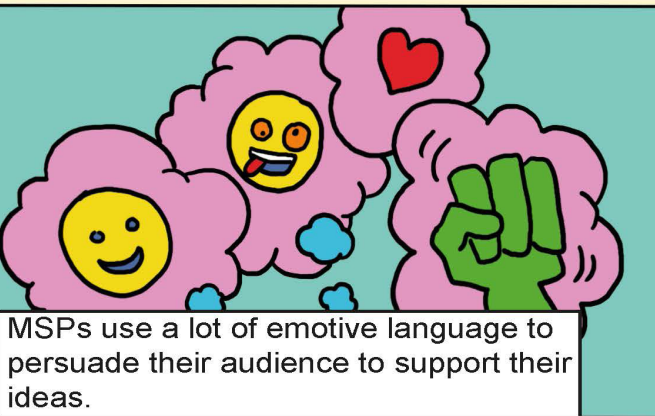
by Fraserburgh Academy and Magic Torch Comics

MSP speeches



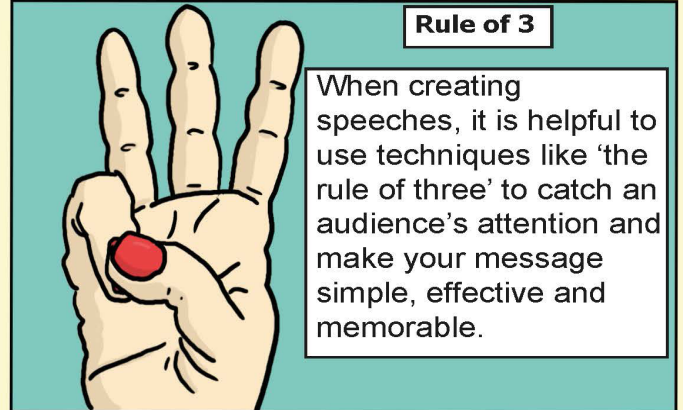
Jordan Baker MSP is preparing a speech to read in parliament.

In speeches the way language is used is often just as important as the point being made.

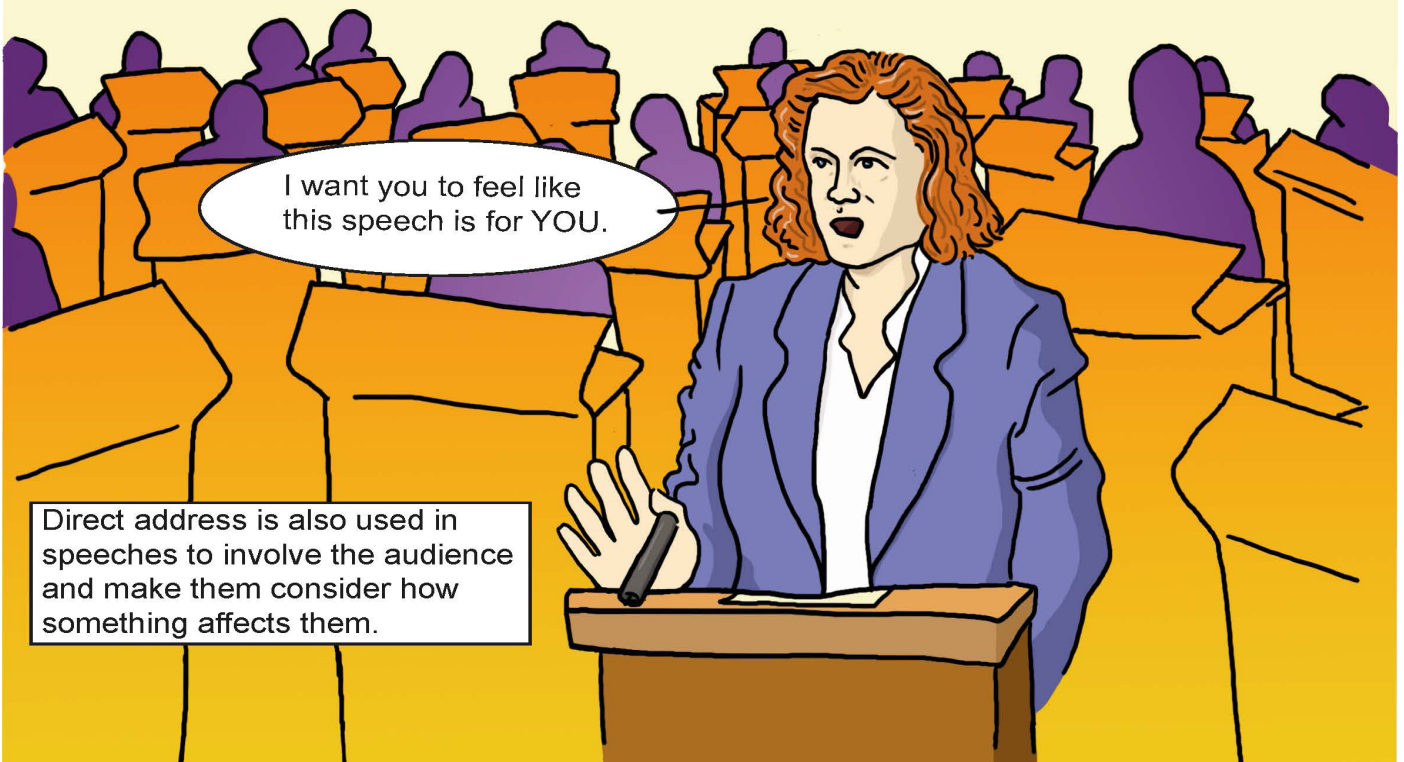


MSPs use a lot of emotive language to persuade their audience to support their ideas.

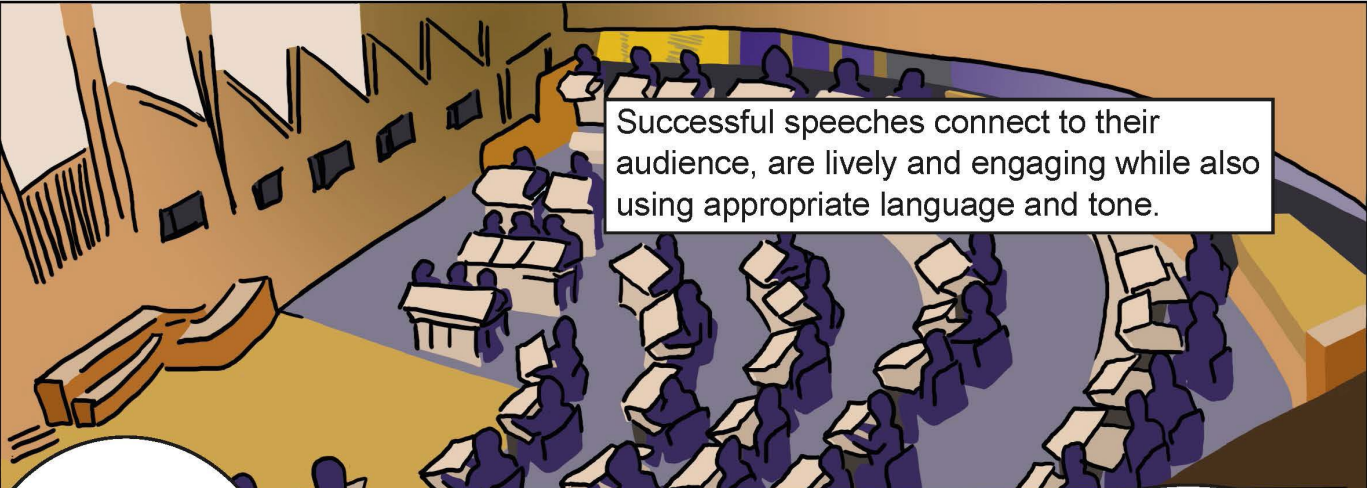
Rule of 3




When creating speeches, it is helpful to use techniques like 'the rule of three' to catch an audience's attention and make your message simple, effective and memorable.



Direct address is also used in speeches to involve the audience and make them consider how something affects them.




Successful speeches connect to their audience, are lively and engaging while also using appropriate language and tone.




The reason I stood as an MSP is because I was eager to make a difference in peoples lives...

The MSP starts her speech by using the rule of three to create a positive impact and connection.




...I wanted to change things...

The word change suggests dissatisfaction with how things are now, but is hopeful, positive and inclusive.



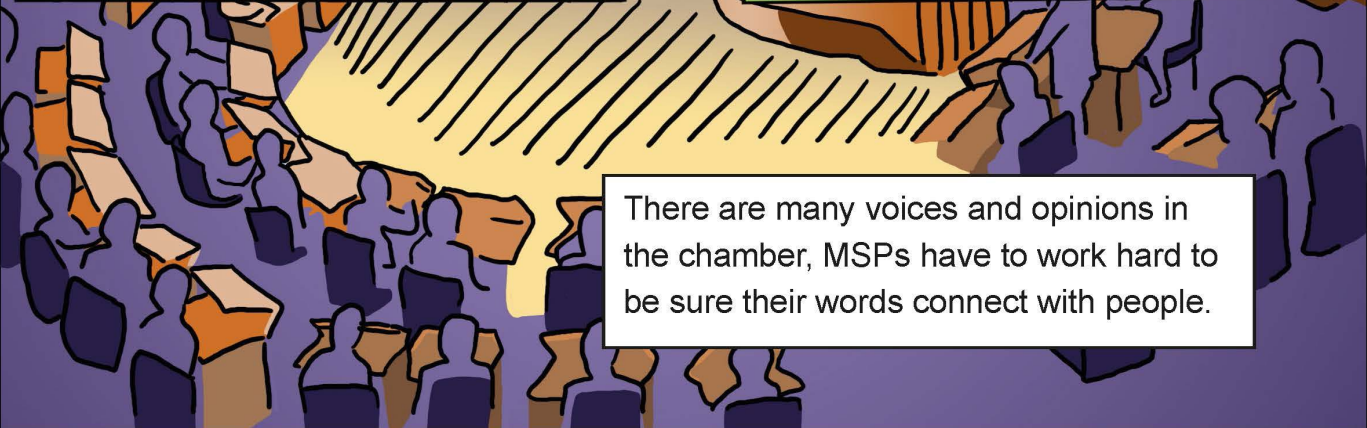
...to help improve the lives of people...

The MSP has used the word 'improve' to build on the positive tone and be clear about her aspiration to make things better.



...in this country.

Phrases such as "in this country" create a feeling of shared unity and avoids the exclusion of language such as "my country".



There are many voices and opinions in the chamber, MSPs have to work hard to be sure their words connect with people.

## Official Reporting

The Official Report is the official written record of proceedings in the Scottish Parliament.

It is a 'substantially verbatim' report of what is said during all full meetings



of the Parliament and public meetings of parliamentary committees and is prepared by the official report team.

... as suggested by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Children...



'Substantially verbatim' means that in the official report repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected

Staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the meaning intended.

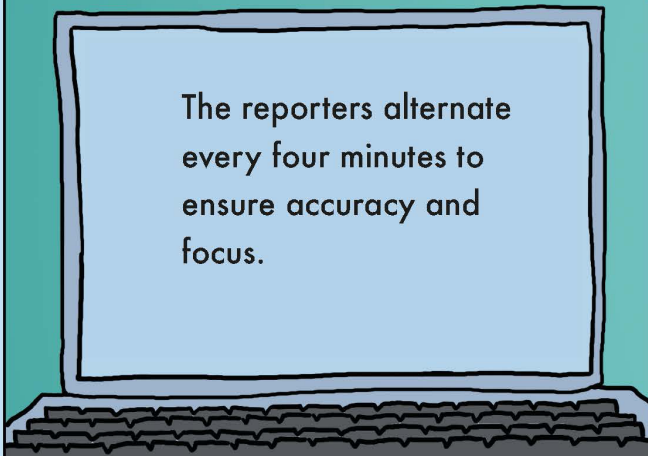


... as suggested by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

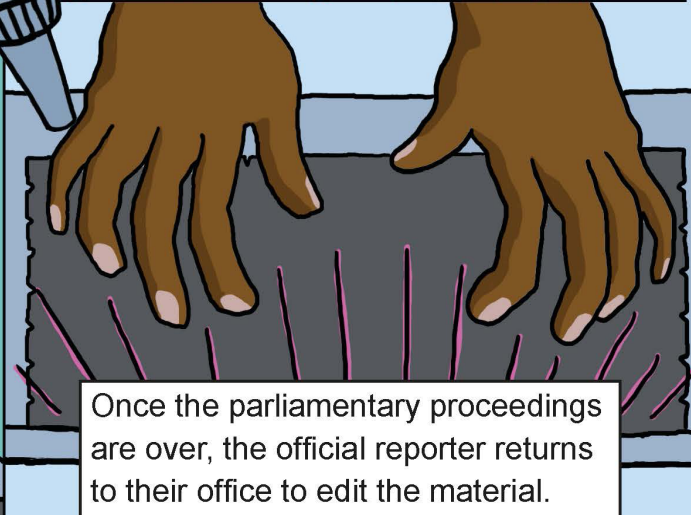
Official report work in a room inside the debating chamber, with a team of people listening and recording throughout the session.



The reporters alternate every four minutes to ensure accuracy and focus.



Once the parliamentary proceedings are over, the official reporter returns to their office to edit the material.



If an MSP speaks in English, Scots or Doric, their speech will appear as they said it.



Peter Chapman MSP

I was born and bred and brocht up in a sma Buchan ferm in the 1950s. Aa that I heard until went tae the skweel wis the Doric. Aabodie about there spoke the Doric.

But Scots wull nae be shoved intae the linguistic midden. It is no only haudin furrin, it is makkin its way back up tae where it should



Joan McAlpine MSP

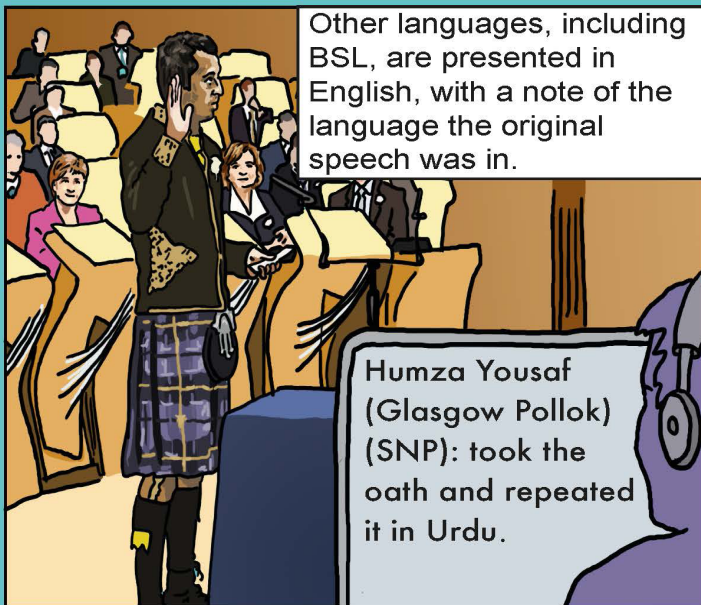
If an MSP speaks Gaelic, the Gaelic appears first, and the English translation afterwards:

Tha Alba taiceil ris a' Ghàidhlig, ri Albais agus ri saoghal far a bheil daoine fosgailte dhan a h-uile cànan agus a h-uile cultar a th' ann.



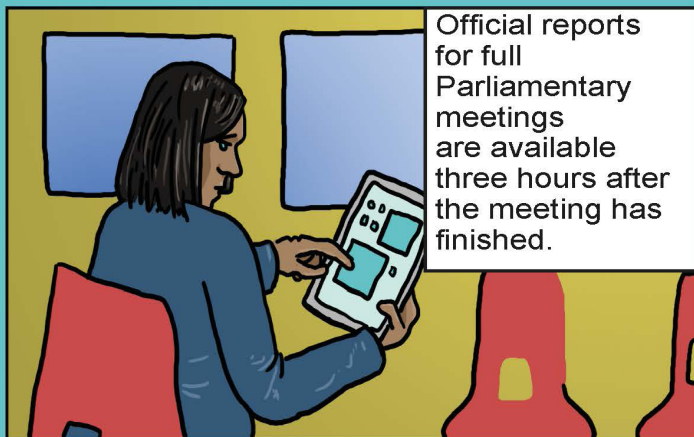
Dr Alasdair Allan MSP

Scotland is supportive of Gaelic, of Scots and of a world where everyone is open to each and every language and culture.



Other languages, including BSL, are presented in English, with a note of the language the original speech was in.

Humza Yousaf (Glasgow Pollok) (SNP): took the oath and repeated it in Urdu.



Official reports for full Parliamentary meetings are available three hours after the meeting has finished.



Even after publication, the reports are proof read for quality control... and accuracy.



To read the official reports of the Scottish Parliament, scan the QR code with a phone or tablet.

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