


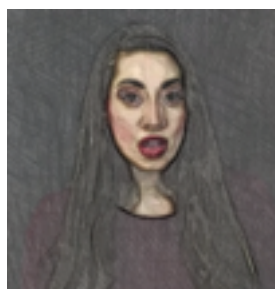


Thinking | Teaching | Talking

# How to stop someone from talking incessantly



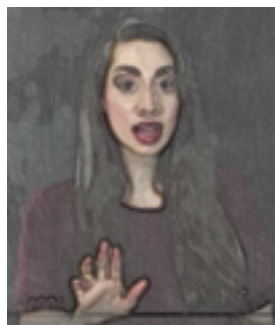
Some people love to hear themselves talk so much that, try as you might, you can't get a word in edgewise. One part of the problem is that you're waiting for them to pass the baton to you: they're simply not going to do it. You don't have to interrupt them; you can use your body language and shut them up with non-verbal cues.



Least rude

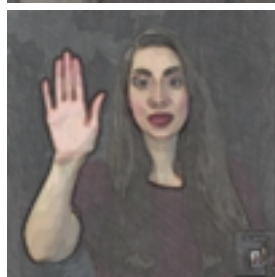
1

**The Fish:** You open your mouth wide (like a fish) to signify that you're ready to talk now.



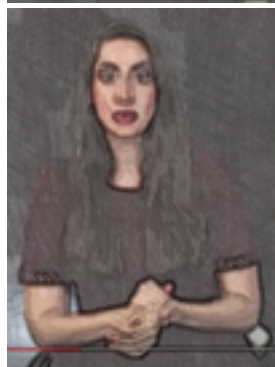
2

**The Bookmark:** You reach out your hand to slide into what they're saying and add something. Pairs well with The Fish.



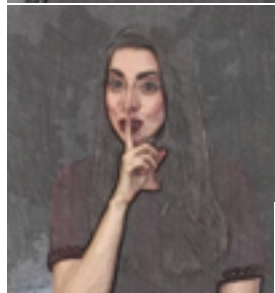
3

**The Pupil:** You raise your hand as if you were in a classroom. It also subtly looks like the universal sign for "stop."



4

**The Touch:** You lightly touch their shoulder or arm. This usually stops them and gives you a small opening to use to your advantage. It could be to add something, or merely to say goodbye and escape the conversation. ("It was nice chatting with you!")



5

**The Teacher:** You hold your finger up like a teacher demanding silence in a classroom. It looks similar to the "shhh" gesture. This is the most aggressive move and should only be used when everything else fails.

Most rude