

WHEN NOT TO SPEAK

DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH:

1. In the heat of anger:

Pro 14:17 *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.*

2. When you don't have all the facts:

Pro 18:13 *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*

3. When you haven't verified the story:

Deu 17:6 *At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.*

4. If your words will offend a weaker brother:

1Co 8:11 *And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*

5. If your words will be a poor reflection of the Lord or your friends and family:

1Pe 2:23 *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

6. When you are tempted to make light of holy things.

Ecc 5:2 *Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.*

7. When your are tempted to Joke about sin.

Pro 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous *there* is favor.

8. **If your words would convey a wrong impression:**

Pro 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

9. **If you would be ashamed of your words later:**

Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

10. **If the issue is none of your business:**

Pro 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

11. **When your are tempted to lie:**

Pro 4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

12. **If your words will damage someone's reputation:**

Pro 16:27 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips *there is* as a burning fire.

13. **If your words would destroy a friendship:**

Pro 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

14. **When you are feeling critical:**

Jam 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

15. **If you can't speak without yelling:**

Pro 25:28 He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without walls.

16. **When it is time to listen:**

Pro 13:1 A wise son *heareth* his father's instruction: but a scorner *heareth* not rebuke.

17. **If you may have time to ear your words later:**

Pro 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

18. **If you've already said it more than one time:** (Then it becomes nagging.) Proverbs 18:21

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19. **When you are tempted to flatter a wicked person:**

Pro 24:24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou *art* righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

20. When you are supposed to be working instead:

Pro 14:23 In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips *tendeth* only to penury. (lack, need, penury, poor, poverty, want.)

