



Enhancing Ceremonies - Delivering a Charge & Prompting

Our Masonic ceremonies deliver important teachings – these are best understood when delivered well. To achieve this, brethren need to fully learn their allocated charge and deliver with clarity and feeling.

Techniques for learning charges are covered in another tool however it is worth stressing that it is important to always rehearse the passage aloud. Identify the commas and take a pause at points to enable the receiver to comprehend what is being said.

If the mind goes blank - do NOT say sorry. Look at or ask for the prompt.

The prompt should come from the official Prompt only. A personal prompt (e.g. for Wardens) is ok only if arranged with the DC and official Prompt before the meeting.

Prompting is an important skill and contributes greatly to the quality of the ceremony. Therefore it is essential the brother selected in your Lodge as the official Prompt can do so skillfully. It does not always need to be the Secretary, though they are well placed to do so. Also it is a good way to involve another brother in the ceremony.

When prompting always give a short phrase as appropriate as one word is often not sufficient. If in giving a charge a word is substituted with the same meaning let the brother carry on. It is better to maintain the flow than to pause.

Prompts need to:

- be able to speak clearly and loudly;
- know when to give a short phrase prompt;
- attend rehearsals and understand the characteristics of a brother giving a charge;
- know when to let a brother carry on with the flow of the charge if a word or words are missed.

