

WORD OF THE WEEK

MONOLOGUE



READ IT



Monologue



DEFINE IT



1. A long speech by one actor in a play or film, as part of a performance.
2. A long, tedious speech by one person during a conversation.



DRAW IT



USE IT



1. There was a thunder of applause when the monologue ended.
2. His actions were accompanied by a rambling monologue.



LINK IT



Soliloquy, speech, lecture, sermon, oration.



DE-CONSTRUCT IT



Mid 17th century, from Greek *monos* meaning *single/alone* and *logos* meaning *speech*, so *speaking alone to oneself*.



DIGGING DEEPER



In drama, monologues are similar to other devices such as asides and soliloquies, but there are important differences. A soliloquy involves a character speaking his thoughts and feelings to the audience or him/herself, no other characters are involved. Similarly, asides (whilst being much shorter) are not heard by other characters. A monologue is simply the thoughts of a person spoken out loud. It could be to another character. One of the most famous monologues of all time (which is also a soliloquy) is found in Shakespeare's Hamlet and is familiar to most people, beginning with, 'To be, or not to be - that is the question.'

Antonyms: dialogue, silence, conversation