

# THE KING'S SPEECH



A guide  
for people  
with  
aphasia

**Bertie**  
George  
the  
Sixth



- **King George the fifth** dies and his son **Bertie** is crowned **King George the sixth** of England.

- **World War Two** is looming.



- Bertie has a **severe speech impediment**. He worries he is **not the leader Britain needs**.





**Lionel** The  
Speech Therapist

**Elizabeth**

The

Queen



- Bertie's wife  
**Elizabeth** hires a  
**speech therapist**  
called **Lionel Logue.**



- **Lionel uses unusual methods that are difficult for Bertie.**





- Will Bertie gain the **confidence** and **skills** he needs for his first radio broadcast ?



- Running time **almost 2 hours**  
1 hour 58 minutes
- 4 acts = 4 screenings

Act 1 = under half hour

## What is happening

The Duke of York-  
**Bertie** - suffers with a  
severe stutter. His  
wife **Elizabeth**- The  
Queen Mother - hires  
specialists to try to  
help him.

## Scene image



**Stop at 27 min**

**52 sec**

# Act 1 explained

- Bertie struggles to speak at Wembley stadium.

- After many failed efforts

**Bertie's wife Elizabeth** hires speech therapist **Lionel Logue** who is **unorthodox and controversial**.

- Lionel **auditions** for a theatre company and **is rejected** because of his **age and class**.
  
- Bertie **successfully reads** **Hamlet** without stammering with Lionel's methods.

- Bertie's **doubts and temper**  
get the best of him and **he**  
**leaves the session.**

**Act 2 = half hour**

## **What is happening**

King George V is dying and tells Bertie he must step up as a leader and a speaker.



## Scene image



**Stop at 58 min**

14 sec

## **Act 2 explained**

- Bertie **listens to the recording**

Lionel made and **returns for more lessons.**

- Bertie **learns tools** to help

him **overcome his stammer.**

- Bertie tells Lionel he **was abused by his nanny and punished** repeatedly by his parents. Lionel says these things **contributed to his stammer.**

- David reveals he will marry his mistress **Mrs. Simpson.**

Wallis  
Simpson -  
David's  
mistress.



- Bertie is **outraged at David's behaviour** and David accuses him of trying to take the throne for himself.

**Act 3 = under half  
hour**

## **What is happening**

Bertie returns to  
Lionel and continues  
therapy.

David abdicates the  
throne.

## Scene image



Stop at 1 hr 17 min  
51 sec

# Act 3 explained

- Bertie's brother **David** **abdicates the throne** to marry Mrs. Simpson.





- Bertie struggles to write his coronation speech and Elizabeth comforts him.
- **Bertie returns** to Lionel to **apologise**.
- Elizabeth and Lionel's wife **Myrtle** meet.

**Myrtle -  
Lionel's  
wife.**



Act 4 = **half hour**

**What is happening**

Lionel and Bertie  
**rehearse the coronation**  
in the abbey.



# Scene image



End credits 1 hr 47  
min 19 sec

# Act 4 explained

- Lionel and Bertie go to the abbey.
- Bertie confronts Lionel about his qualifications.
- Archbishop tries to replace Lionel. Bertie objects.



- Bertie and Lionel **rehearse the coronation** in the abbey.
- Bertie and family **watch footage of Adolf Hitler** speaking.



- The **British ambassador** in Nazi **Germany** quits.

- **Britain is at war with Germany.**
- **Lionel and Bertie rehearse the declaration of war.**



- **Churchill says he had a speech impediment.**

# Churchill was **tongue tied**



Abnormal lingual  
frenulum

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- **Elizabeth and Lionel support Bertie before and during speech.**
- **Bertie delivers his speech and is successful.**



## Discuss

Did you **like the film?**

**What** did you like?

Can you **relate to Bertie?**

Can you **relate to Lionel?**