

PHRASAL VERB

If you **speak up**, you say something, especially to defend a person or protest about something, rather than just saying nothing.

Uncle Herbert never argued, never spoke up for himself.

Don't be afraid of speaking up.

I am not suggesting that individuals never speak up about wrong-doing.

If you **ask someone to speak up**, you are asking them to speak more loudly.

I'm quite deaf—you'll have to speak up.

exercises

1. In which of these situations might you ask somebody to *speak up*?

- a. while you are studying in a library
- b. at a rock concert
- c. when you're trying to get to sleep

2. Is *speak up* the right thing to say in these situations? Chose the best phrase for each.

- a. *Speak up!* / *Don't speak so loudly!* Why are you whispering?
- b. *Speak up!* / *Start again!* You're not making any sense!
- c. *Speak up!* / *Say that again!* I don't know what you mean.
- d. *Speak up!* / *Don't speak so loudly!* You know I'm going deaf son!
- e. *Speak up!* / *Speed up!* You're talking much too slowly!
- f. *Speak up!* / *Speak more quietly!* There's no need to shout!