

Locutionary / illocutionary Acts (p. 92-3)

The following demonstrates the distinct nature of each type of act (ibid.:101):

Locutionary act:	He said to me, "You can't do that."
Illocutionary act:	He protested against my doing that.
Perlocutionary act:	He pulled me up, checked me. He stopped me, brought me to my senses. He annoyed me.

Speech act theorists have given attention to delineating illocutionary acts. Prominent among these is John Searle, whose classification and definitions are the following (1976:10-13):

1. *Representatives*: Commit the speaker (in varying degrees) to something's being the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition; for example, state, conclude, represent, deduce.
2. *Directives*: Attempts (of varying degrees) by the speaker to get the hearer to do something; for example, command, offer, invite, ask, order, request, beg, permit, dare, challenge.
3. *Commissives*: Commit the speaker (again in varying degrees) to some future course of action; for example, promise, pledge, threaten.
4. *Expressives*: Express the psychological state of the speaker toward a particular state of affairs; for example, thank, congratulate, apologize, condole, deplore, welcome.
5. *Declarations*: Bring about the correspondence between the propositional content and reality; for example, appoint, nominate, sentence, pronounce, fire, resign.

Try it yourself: Decide which of these headlines report speech acts and which report physical acts:

Sony Unveils Ambitious Plan for Music	CSC Awarded Contract
Fight Brews at FCC	Gap Hires Founder of Etoys
Judge Limits Skid Row Sweeps	Winds Wreak Havoc
Smuggling Suspects Acquitted	POW Rescued from Captors

Directives (p. 120)

1. *Need statement* (speaker asserts her need or want):
"I need some salt."
2. *Imperative* (speaker commands an action of hearer):
"Give me the salt!"
3. *Embedded imperative* (command is embedded in another linguistic frame):
"Could you give me some salt?"
4. *Permission directive* (speaker asks permission, implying action of hearer):
"May I have the salt?"
5. *Question directive* (speaker asks a question, indirectly implying action of hearer):
"Do you have any salt?"
6. *Hints* (speaker makes assertion, hinting a request):
"The salt's not here."