

= Speak Now (song) =

" Speak Now " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . The song , written and produced by Swift with Nathan Chapman , was released as a promotional single on October 5 , 2010 , by Big Machine Records from her 2010 album of the same name . Swift wrote the song about interrupting a wedding , after conversing with her friend , whose ex @-@ boyfriend would soon wed to someone else , and having a dream about one of her own ex @-@ boyfriends marrying another girl . The song relies on acoustic guitar and is a narration from the perspective of a person who crashes her former love 's wedding in attempt to win him back .

The song opened to critical acclaim for its lyrical detail . " Speak Now " had successful commercial outcomes in Canada and the United States , debuting and peaking at number eight on both the Canadian Hot 100 and the Billboard Hot 100 . Its appearance on the Billboard Hot 100 marked Swift 's sixth top ten debut , which made her the artist with the most top ten debuts in the history of the chart . " Speak Now " also managed to garner enough airplay to chart on the Hot Country Songs chart .

= = Background = =

" Speak Now " was written by Swift , as were all the tracks for the album . The song was inspired by the story of her friend and her high school boyfriend . The couple went their separate ways after high school ? with the idea that they would get back together . One day , Swift 's friend informed Swift that her high school boyfriend would soon wed . " He had met this girl who 's just this horrible , mean person who made him completely stop talking to all of his friends , cut off his family . She had him so completely isolated , " said Swift . She asked her friend if she would " speak now . " Perplexed , her friend asked for an explanation , and she answered , " You know , storm the church . ' Speak now or forever hold your peace . ' I 'll go with you . I 'll play guitar . It 'd be great . " Swift 's friend found this to be humorous , laughing at the idea .

After speaking with her friend , Swift became deeply fixated on the idea of how tragic it would be for the person one loved to wed someone else . That night , Swift experienced a dream where one of her own ex @-@ boyfriends married another girl . To her , this signaled that she had to compose a song about interrupting a wedding . In retrospect , she concluded , " For me , I like to think of it as good versus evil . And this girl is just completely ? just the evil one . " Swift entitled the album after " Speak Now " because it fit the album 's concept , with each song being a different confession to a person . " It 's called Speak Now , and that pertains to the album as a concept and as an entire theme of the record more than I can even tell you , " she said . The song was released as a promotional single on October 5 , 2010 , as part of Countdown to Speak Now , an exclusive campaign launched by the iTunes Store . During the opening week of Speak Now , Swift performed " Speak Now " on the Late Show with David Letterman .

= = Composition = =

" Speak Now " is a country pop track with a length of four minutes and two seconds . It has a predominant pop music composition , intertwined with various country elements . The song is set in common time and has a moderate tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is written in the key of G major and Swift 's vocals span two octaves , from A3 to D5 . Swift 's vocals begin in a hushed tone , gradually turn grow , and at one point belt the song 's title . The song features different twangy , up @-@ and @-@ down vocal hooks might , in similarity to " You Belong with Me " . It follows the chord progression G ? D ? Am ? C . The song 's instrumentation is based on acoustic guitar ; it eventually has its own gentle solo .

In the lyrics of " Speak Now " , Swift narrates about crashing her former love 's wedding in attempt to win him back . The opening lines acknowledge that , although out of character , Swift is still in love with her ex @-@ boyfriend and wants to make sure he does not marry the wrong girl . Throughout the song 's verses , Swift sneaks in the wedding and describes her observations , such

as the bride @-@ to @-@ be 's bearing of a poofy wedding gown , her cumulative family , and an organist playing " Bridal Chorus " . In " Speak Now " ' s refrains , Swift pleads her ex @-@ boyfriend to not say his vows in order to run away with her . The bridge has Swift responding to the priest 's calling of " Speak now or forever hold your peace " before repeating the opening lines . The last refrain is altered , with Swift narrating from the groom 's perspective and inform Swift they will indeed run away together .

= = Critical reception = =

The song opened to critical acclaim . Simon Vozick @-@ Levinson of Entertainment Weekly deemed " Speak Now " one of Swift 's best songs yet . He also said , " Her expressive delivery of the lyrics makes up for any shortcomings as a technical vocalist " and that it was " expertly catchy " . He concluded that he was unable to stop playing the song after he heard it . Bill Lamb of About.com said the song was " brilliant " . He continued , " The song is sweet , funny , bratty , and edgy all at the same time . Taylor Swift remains one of our most gifted young lyricists . " Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine thought that " Speak Now " exemplified Swift 's inability to " write authoritatively about anything other than how great boys are or how much boys suck or how dreams about boys will take her somewhere better than where she is now . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Speak Now " entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number eight due to the sales of 217 @,@ 000 digital downloads . With that week 's appearance on the chart , " Speak Now " became Swift 's sixth top ten debut and , therefore , set the mark that made Swift the artist with most top ten debuts in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 , surpassing the five top ten entries earned by Mariah Carey from 1995 to 1998 . Elsewhere in North America , the track debuted at number eight on the Canadian Hot 100 . In Australia , " Speak Now " debuted at number twenty .

= = Live performances = =

The song is performed on the Speak Now World Tour . Clips of the performance can be seen in the music video for Swift 's single " Sparks Fly " . In the clips we see a bride wearing " a gown shaped like a pastry " as she walks up the stairs to the groom and preacher . Swift can be seen in the background making a scene during this clip . Other clips show the bridesmaids waving , the bride getting onto them while the groom is clapping and the groom running off with Swift . According to Jocelyn Vena of MTV.com , the performance is " a very theatrical moment " in which " Swift acted out crashing a wedding . She eventually stole the groom away , as she sings in the song , and the pair ran through the crowd together . "

= = Covers = =

Speak Now was covered by Seohyun of Girls ' Generation as a solo stage at the Romantic Fantasy concert on 1 January 2013 . Prior to this , she played a part of the song on the 21 September 2011 episode of the Big Brother TV program as an example of a song which she enjoyed when practicing the guitar and the English language .

= = Track listing = =

Digital Download

" Speak Now " ? 4 : 02

= = Charts = =

