

# Speak with Elegance (or not)

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When we're speaking, we have an overwhelming compulsion to fill 'dead air' with words. So, we tend to inject lots of 'ums' and 'uhs'.



I noticed that YouTube automatically generates a transcript from videos. So, I saved a copy of the transcript from the [recent lunch-n-learn I did for Smart Data](#), to see how I did.

I threw together a quick parser:

```
#!/usr/bin/python3

def word_check(line_to_check, word_to_check):
    current_count = 0

    if line_to_check.startswith(f"{word_to_check} "):
        current_count = current_count + 1
    if line_to_check.endswith(f" {word_to_check}"):
        current_count = current_count + 1
    current_count = current_count + line_to_check.count(f" {word_to_check}
")

    return current_count

if __name__ == "__main__":
    um_count = 0
    uh_count = 0

    with open("video_transcript.txt") as f:
        contents = f.readlines()

        for line in contents:
            line = line.strip()

            um_count = um_count + word_check(line, "um")
```

```
uh_count = uh_count + word_check(line, "uh")
```

```
print(f"You said 'um' {um_count} times")  
print(f"You said 'uh' {uh_count} times")
```

Then, I ran it against the transcript of my 90 minute talk. Bear in mind, I was pretty confident that I do a decent job of minding my 'uhs', and 'ums'.

My results?

```
You said 'um' 31 times  
You said 'uh' 165 times
```

Apparently, perception is not always reality. Who knew?



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