

# Sample Scripts for Five Motions

These scripts provide sample language to process the following motions:

- Main Motion
- Amendment and Friendly Amendment
- Point of Order
- Appeal
- Call the Question (Previous Question)

## MAIN MOTION

Chair	<i>Does any member care to make a motion?</i>
Member A	<i>I move that we hold a cruise on Dino Bay this spring.</i>
Member B	<i>Second!</i>
Chair	<i>It has been moved and seconded that we hold a cruise on Dino Bay this spring. Is there any discussion? The person who made the motion has the right to speak first.</i>
Member A	<i>I think it will be a great way for our members to socialize. The bay is a sublime venue!</i>
Member C	<i>Lots of our dinosaur members get seasick on the water. I think a cruise is not the best idea. I speak against the motion.</i>
Member B	<i>Well, it will be optional. Anyone who doesn't like cruises can just stay home. I think it's a fun activity and I'm in favor.</i>
Chair	<i>Are you ready to vote? [pause] Hearing no further discussion, we'll take the vote. The motion is that we hold a cruise on Dino Bay this spring. All those in favor, please say "aye."</i>
Members in favor	<i>Aye!</i>
Chair	<i>All those opposed, please say "no."</i>
Members opposed	<i>No!</i>
Chair	<i>The ayes have it, the motion passes, and we will hold a cruise this spring, OR The noes have it, the motion is lost, and we will not hold a cruise this spring.</i>



## AMENDMENT

As the Main Motion is being discussed, a member speaks up.

Member D	<i>I move to amend the motion by striking the word “spring” and inserting the word “summer.”</i>
Member E	<i>Second!</i>
Chair	<i>It has been moved and seconded that we amend the motion by striking the word “spring” and inserting the word “summer.” Is there any discussion?</i>
Member D	<i>Spring is coming right up. We need some time to organize this, and the weather will likely be better in summer.</i>
Member A	<i>Life is short! We should do this soon. I’m against the amendment.</i>
Member C	<i>The water is likely to be calmer and less choppy in the summer, so I’m in favor of the amendment.</i>
Chair	<i>Are you ready to vote? [pause] Hearing no further discussion, we’ll take the vote. The motion is to amend the motion by striking the word “spring” and inserting the word “summer.” If it passes, the amended motion will read, “That we hold a cruise on Dino Bay this summer.” All those in favor of the Amendment, please say “aye.”</i>
Members in favor	<i>Aye!</i>
Chair	<i>All those opposed, please say “no.”</i>
Members opposed	<i>No!</i>
Chair	<i>The ayes have it, the Motion to Amend passes, and the Main Motion is amended, OR The noes have it, the Motion to Amend is lost, and the Main Motion remains as originally stated.</i>
Chair	<i>We will now resume discussion on the Main Motion [as amended, if it was amended].</i>
	<i>Note that Amendments are voted on BEFORE the Main Motion. Once the fate of the Amendment has been determined, it is still necessary to vote on the Main Motion. Further Amendments are possible, provided that they apply to a different aspect of the Main Motion.</i>

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## FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

As the Main Motion is being discussed, a member speaks up.

Member F	<i>Member A, may I offer a friendly amendment? Would you be willing for us to hold a picnic instead of a cruise?</i>
Chair	<i>A friendly amendment is processed just like any other amendment. Would Member F like to offer an Amendment to the motion?</i>
Member F	<i>OK, I move to amend the motion by striking the word “cruise” and inserting the word “picnic.”</i>
Chair	<i>Is there a second? [pause] Hearing none, the Amendment will not be considered [OR if there is a second, process the Amendment in the usual way.]</i>
<p>Note that once a motion has been made, seconded, and stated by the chair, the original maker of the motion has the same rights as every other member, but no other right. It is improper to ask the maker and seconder if they will accept a friendly amendment, since this would mean that they have a special proprietary right in the motion, which would be undemocratic.</p>	

## POINT OF ORDER

During the discussion, a member speaks up.

Member G	<i>I think that the old geezers in this club are too worn out to enjoy a cruise.</i>
Member H	<i>Point of Order!</i>
Chair	<i>State your point.</i>
Member H	<i>The word “geezers” is insulting.</i>
Chair	<i>The point is well taken. Members will refrain from using improper language, OR The point is not well taken. Members may use this term.</i>
<p>When a Point of Order is made, the chair must immediately issue a ruling. The chair may also turn to the group to decide whether the point is well taken (correct) or not (see next example). Note that once the chair has issued a ruling on a Point of Order, the only allowable discussion is to appeal the ruling.</p>	



## ANOTHER WAY TO PROCESS POINT OF ORDER

Member G	<i>I think that the old geezers in this club are too worn out to enjoy a cruise.</i>
Member H	<i>Point of Order!</i>
Chair	<i>State your point.</i>
Member H	<i>The word “geezers” is insulting.</i>
Chair	<i>The chair is uncertain about this, so the members will decide. All those who believe that the word “geezers” is an insult, please say “aye.”</i>
Members	<i>Aye!</i>
Chair	<i>All those who believe that the word is not an insult, please say “no.”</i>
Members	<i>No!</i>
Chair	<i>The ayes have it, so the point is well taken. Members will refrain from using this term, OR The noes have it, so the point is not well taken. Members may use this term.</i>

## APPEAL

The chair has ruled that the Point of Order is well taken, and Member G disagrees.

Member G	<i>Appeal!</i>
Member J	<i>Second!</i>
Chair	<i>Very well, the ruling of the chair has been appealed and seconded. The members will decide whether the word “geezers” may be used. As you know, appeals pertaining to language and decorum may not be debated. It is just a straight up-or-down vote. The chair has ruled that the word “geezers” is an insult. All those who believe that this ruling SHOULD be sustained, please say “aye.”</i>
Members in favor	<i>Aye!</i>
Chair	<i>All those who believe it SHOULD NOT be sustained, please say “no.”</i>
Members opposed	<i>No!</i>
Chair	<i>The ayes have it and the chair’s ruling is sustained. The term “geezers” may not be used, OR The noes have it and the chair’s ruling is not sustained. The term “geezers” may be used.</i>
	Note that the chair’s ruling stands until it is overturned, which takes a negative vote. A tie or a majority vote in favor means that the chair’s ruling is sustained. The chair may vote on the Appeal. When an Appeal may be debated, the process is different from anything else in Robert’s Rules. <a href="#">See our website for a script.</a>



## CALL THE QUESTION

After obtaining the floor, a member who is tired of the debate speaks up.

Member K	<i>I call the question!</i>
Member L	<i>Second!</i>
Chair	<i>The question has been called and seconded. We will vote on whether to stop debate now and vote immediately on the pending question, which is [state motion under consideration, which in this example is to hold a cruise on Dino Bay this summer]. All those in favor of stopping debate, please raise your right hand.</i>
Members in favor	[raise right hand]
Chair	Thank you, hands down. All those opposed, please raise your right hand.
Members opposed	[raise right hand]
Chair	<i>Thank you, hands down. There are two-thirds in favor of stopping debate, so we will vote immediately on the pending question, OR There are not two-thirds in favor of stopping debate, so discussion will continue.</i>

## ANOTHER WAY TO PROCESS CALL THE QUESTION

Member K	<i>I call the question!</i>
Member L	<i>Second!</i>
Chair	<i>Is there any objection if we stop debate now and take the vote on the immediately pending motion? [pause] Hearing none, we will take the vote [OR if a member says “Objection,” then proceed in the normal way as above.]</i>
	Note that to Call the Question requires a two-thirds vote, since cutting off debate limits member rights. The vote must be taken so you can see the result, not by voice. A member may not shout out “Question,” but must be recognized by the chair before making this motion. Once it is made, DO NOT simply shut down the debate. Have the members decide what to do.

Note that in some instances, our suggested language differs slightly from the formal language of Robert’s Rules, in order to reflect common practice and simplify the learning process.

Jurassic Parliament suggestion	Robert’s Rules formal language
It has been moved and seconded	It is moved and seconded
We will now have discussion	Are you ready for the question?
Are you ready to vote?	Are you ready for the question?
Appeal	I appeal from the ruling of the chair
I call the question!	I move the Previous Question.

