**What is the difference between a monologue and a soliloquy?**

In origin, the words are doublets: Greek *monologue* and Latin *soliloquy* both mean 'single speech'. But they are now distinguished in performances with **monologue** as a speech made by one person in the company of others while a **soliloquy** is spoken by one person who is alone. A **monologue** is a long speech delivered by one person who forgets or neglects the others who are there, with an example being "The Vagina Monologues." Hamlet's "To be or not to be" is a great example of a **soliloquy**. We also think of **monologue** in the context of late-night talk shows or comedy clubs where the host or performer does a stand-up comedy routine.

<http://content.dictionary.com/help/dictionary/faq/language/d38.html>