

Step 2: "I HAVE A DREAM..."

"I Have a Dream" is a public speech delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. on August 28, 1963, in which he calls for an end to racism in the United States. Delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, the speech was a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement. The speech was ranked the top American speech of the 20th century in a 1999 poll of scholars of public address.



1. LISTEN, READ and MARK each pause with a / or // if it is a long pause.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. // I say to you, today my friends, // so even though we face the difficulties / of today and tomorrow, / I still have a dream. / It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal¹. I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification", -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

[...]

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!"² And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that, let freedom, ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."³

WORDBOX :

§1 :

to wallow in = se complaire dans ...

a creed : un principe, une croyance,

a Gentile = a non-Jew,
to swelter : étouffer.

§2:

the faith : la foi,
to hew out : tailler,
to ring: sonner.

Extract from "I have a dream" speech by Martin Luther King, 28 August 1963, Washington.

REFERENCES:

1. source: the Declaration of Independence 1776.

2. source: "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", also known as "America", an American patriotic song.

3. source: "Free at Last", American Negro spiritual song

2. What is this speech about?

3. TICK the correct answer.

King's manner is boring passionate violent

King's voice is monotonous lively sad

4. TICK the correct answers.

a) **MLK has a dream of** war freedom justice equality

b) **His speech is addressed to** black people white people

c) **He dreams that one day his children will only be judged on**
 their color their personality their origins

d) **He dreams of a future of**
 segregation brotherhood desegregation conflicts

e) **MLK thinks America will change with** faith violence

f) **MLK thinks that one day Black people will be** happy free

g) **MLK wants to let**
 the sun shine freedom ring people join hands

h) **MLK thinks people should not let**
 colours religions origins politics **separate them.**

5. LOOK at the PAUSES you've found in MLK's speech. TICK the correct answer.

	NORMAL CONVERSATION	MLK'S SPEECH	Why does MLK decide to pause so often in his speech? What effect does it create?
Pause at the end of the sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	
Pause mid-sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	
Stress on key words	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	
Contracted verb forms	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	<input type="checkbox"/> always <input type="checkbox"/> sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> never	

6. IN GROUPS: FILL IN the columns with extracts from MLK's speech.

1. REPETITIONS	2. PLACES OF THE USA	3. REFERENCES TO AMERICAN HISTORY

7. THINK and ANSWER the questions.

- 1. **REPETITIONS:** why does MLK repeat these expressions?
- 2. **PLACES OF THE USA:** Why is MLK talking about all these states of America?
- 3. **REFERENCES TO THE AMERICAN HISTORY:** Why does MLK use these references in his speech?

8. CONCLUSION: HOW TO MAKE A POWERFUL SPEECH.

The success of a speech depends not only on what is said (= the message), but more importantly on how it is delivered (= the manner).

MANNER: To empower your speech, you can use your V_____ (tone), S_____ and P_____.

MESSAGE: In your speech, you should use R_____ to empower your message, R_____ to prove your point, and different P_____ used as examples to make your message universal.

CANADA

