

TeachingEnglish lesson

SDG 10 and SDG 16: Asking for change

June 2021

Asking for change



Write down:

- three things that you really like about the world/where you live
- three things that you would really like to change.



Asking for change



Read these extracts from famous speeches. What are they talking about? What changes do they want?

You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones ... We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

If we stop defining each other by what we are not and start defining ourselves by what we are – we can all be freer ... It's about freedom.

People like to ask me why education is important especially for girls ... as I said last year at the United Nations, 'One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world.'

Asking for change



A

In the months leading up to the March, there was a lot of frustration at racial inequity in black communities. Demonstrations by African Americans and confrontation with police were common. By the end of 1963, 20,000 activists had been arrested and over 900 demonstrations had taken place in over a hundred cities.

B

1963 was a time in American history when areas such as education, employment, housing and voting were severely affected by racial discrimination and injustice. Black and white children had to go to separate schools, and many landlords refused to rent houses to black families, forcing them to live in poor and overcrowded neighbourhoods.

C

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his famous 'I have a dream' speech in 1963 to an audience of more than 200,000 people come together from all over the United States for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

D

Dr King, a Baptist minister, won the Nobel Peace Prize when he was only 35 years old. A follower of the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, King is one of the world's best-known modern advocates of non-violent social change. Four years after the March on Washington, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. However, he lived to see part of his dream fulfilled when the Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin, was passed in 1964.

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You are going to listen to an extract from Dr Martin Luther King, Jr's famous 'I have a dream' speech from the March on Washington in 1963.

As you listen, what do you notice about:

- his tone of voice
- his use of repetition
- the effect of his words and how he says them on the listeners?

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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 equal.'

I have a dream that one day on 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!

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How can we make speeches more memorable and persuasive?

ETHOS – (appealing to ethics) convincing the listeners using the authority of the speaker or by referring to someone who is an expert (or authority) on a subject

PATHOS – (appealing to emotion) convincing the listeners by creating an emotional response to a story or to persuade people to agree with you

LOGOS – (appealing to logic) convincing the listeners by using facts, figures and reason

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Decide with your partner if each sentence is an example of ethos, pathos or logos. Say why.

1. Scientists estimate that we have just a few years to reverse the devastating effects of climate change.
2. One per cent of the population now controls 99 per cent of the world's wealth.
3. If we do not act now, our children, and their children, will suffer the consequences of our selfish behaviour.
4. Working as a psychologist, I have seen the beneficial effects of investing in mental health care.
5. You say we don't have time or money to solve these problems, but the real question is can we afford NOT to?
6. As an experienced dentist, I can tell you that cleaning your teeth at least twice a day is highly recommended.
7. Sometimes, people have to stand up and say, 'Enough. We will not tolerate this any more.' Those people are the real heroes.
8. If everyone reduced their car journeys by just 25 per cent, we could achieve a huge reduction in emissions.
9. Without your help, innocent animals will suffer. Can you find a home for one?

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Work in pairs. Decide on one big thing you would like to change in the world or in your community. Make notes for a speech. Use these questions to help you.

- What is my dream?
- Why is it important?
- What obstacles stand in its way?
- How can it be achieved?
- How long might it take for it to come true?
- Who is my audience?
- What authority can I quote in support of my dream? (ethos)
- What appeal to emotion can I make to persuade my audience? (pathos)
- What logical arguments can I give? (logos)

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Thanks for attending the lesson