

# What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

## 1. Watch and think about a speech

- Watch this clip explaining about a famous speech:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00wwkvn>
- Had you ever heard of the ‘I have a dream’ speech. Where did you hear about it?
- Now watch this second clip about the language in the speech. Make notes on *Language Features* about what you learn.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00wwq4t>

## 2. Read other famous speeches

- Read *Two Famous Speeches* and answer the questions.
- Challenge yourself to read one of the speeches in the next set: *Three Famous Speeches* and to answer the questions on that speech as well.

## 3. Practise reading a speech out loud.

- Pick one of the speeches and practise reading it out loud. Practise until your words flow and you are able to speak really expressively.

*Well done! Share read the speech that you have chosen to a grown-up. You can check your answers to the questions too at the back of this pack.*

## Try the Fun-Time Extra

- Watch and listen to some of the speeches. Are they as you expected?  
John F Kennedy – the section referenced begins at about 9.02  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File%3APresident\\_Kennedy%27s\\_Speech\\_at\\_Rice\\_University.ogv](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File%3APresident_Kennedy%27s_Speech_at_Rice_University.ogv)  
Barack Obama - <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4504854/barack-obama-victory-speech> This is a longer section from Obama’s victory speech so listen from about 2.28 to about 3.39 for the section transcribed in the resources.  
Winston Churchill - <https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1940-the-finest-hour/we-shall-never-surrender/> This is a recording of the full speech, listen from around 10.42 onwards for the section transcribed in these resources.

## Language Features

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00wwq4t>

*Watch the clip and make notes here.*


## Two Famous Speeches

**John F. Kennedy - *The Decision to go the Moon 1961*  
(President of USA in 1960s)**



We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organise and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.

1. What is Kennedy explaining?
2. Why do you think he repeats the phrase "We choose to go to the moon"?

*...not because they are easy, but because they are hard...*

3. Does this reason surprise you?  
Why do you think he uses contrasts such as *easy* and *hard* in his speech?

**Barack Obama - *Victory speech 2008*  
(President of USA 2009-2017)**

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term, but America - I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you - we as a people will get there.

There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president, and we know that government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree.



And above all, I will ask you to join in the work of remaking this nation the only way it's been done in America for 221 years - block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand.

4. Who is Obama talking to?

*The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep.*

5. Is he really talking about an actual road? What is he describing with this image?

*...block by block, brick by brick...*

6. What affect does this alliteration (repeating the beginning sound) have and why does he use it?

7. **Both speakers** say things *will* happen rather than *might* or *may* happen.

Why do they use this modal verb in their speech?

8. Which speech do you think is most persuasive? Explain why, giving examples.

## Three Famous Speeches

### Winston Churchill - *We shall fight on the beaches* 1940

(Prime minister of Britain during WWII)

...we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were **subjugated** and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British **Fleet**, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.



**subjugated** - taken control of, dominated

**Fleet** - A number of warships

### Elizabeth I - *Speech to the Troops* 1588

(Queen of England during Tudor times)

I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my **recreation and disport**, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too. I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your **virtues** in the field.



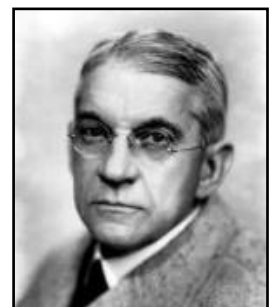
**Recreation and disport** - amusement, fun

**Virtues** – good qualities

### William Lyon Phelps - *The Pleasure of Books* 1933

(American speaker and university lecturer)

A borrowed book is like a guest in the house; it must be treated with **punctiliousness**, with a certain **considerate formality**. You must see that it sustains no damage; it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly, you cannot mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day, although this is seldom done, you really ought to return it.



**Punctiliousness** - care

**Considerate formality** – kind/proper behaviour

## Three Famous Speeches - Questions



Winston Churchill

1. What phrase is repeated most in this speech?  
Why does he use repetition?

*...in God's good time...*

2. Why do you think he uses this alliteration?
3. What difficulty does Churchill predict and how does he make it seem less of a problem?



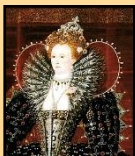
Elizabeth I

4. What is happening at the time of this speech?
5. Find an example of Elizabeth using contrast in her speech.  
Why does she use it?
6. What words to do with the human body does she use  
and why?



William Lyon Phelps

7. What simile does Phelps use to describe a borrowed book?  
How is this imagery effective?
8. What modal verbs does he use and how do they make him more persuasive?
9. How is Phelps' speech very different to the others?  
Why do you think that is?



10. Which speech do you think is the most persuasive?  
Explain why, giving examples.

## Guide to Comprehension Answers

### Two Famous Speeches

1. What is Kennedy explaining? *The reasons for going to the moon*
2. Why do you think he repeats the phrase "We choose to go to the moon"? *This is the main point of his speech. Repeating the phrase helps to make it stand out/be memorable.*
3. Does this reason surprise you? *Yes/no* Why do you think he uses contrasts such as *easy* and *hard* in his speech? *The contrast makes it stand out. It is surprising. It seems like a bigger achievement.*
4. Who is Obama talking to? *America, the American people*
5. Is he really talking about an actual road? What is he describing with this image? *It is a metaphor. He is describing the next few years as a journey taken together with the American people.*
6. What affect does this alliteration (repeating the beginning sound) have and why does he use it? *The words block and brick stand out. He makes it sound like he is building something. (It sounds like a physical task which hard work but will achieve something solid).*
7. **Both speakers** say things *will* happen rather than *might* or *may* happen. Why do they use this modal verb in their speech? *They are talking about the future so can't be sure but use **will** as it sounds more certain. They sound confident that they will achieve their goals. It is more persuasive.*
8. Which speech do you think is most persuasive? Explain why, giving examples.  
*Any reasonable answer justified with examples from the text.*

### Three Famous Speeches

1. What phrase is repeated most in this speech? Why does he use repetition? *'we shall fight' – it makes it stand out/be memorable. It is the main point of the speech. To build up momentum – like a chant. To inspire those who will be fighting/will deal with hardship as a result of the fighting.*
2. Why do you think he uses this alliteration? *To make the words stand out. To make the link between God and his actions. To give his actions legitimacy.*
3. What difficulty does Churchill predict and how does he make it seem less of a problem? *Britain might be taken over by a foreign power and the people starve. He does not believe it will happen even 'for a moment'. The country would be rescued by the Empire/New World and British fleet.*
4. What is happening at the time of this speech? *Troops of soldiers are preparing to go into battle.*
5. Find an example of Elizabeth using contrast in her speech. *'to live and die', 'recreation and disport' 'midst and heat of the battle' 'a weak and feeble woman' 'heart and stomach of a king'* Why does she use it? *To make the words stand out. To challenge those who accuse her of playing or being weak. To emphasise her strength and resolve.*
6. What words to do with the human body does she use and why? *'blood', 'heart' 'stomach'* *The soldiers are about to risk their lives in battle – these are apt terms which everyone can relate to. The heart, blood and stomach are associated with courage and strength. Elizabeth wants to seem like a strong, brave leader. (Some children may identify 'arms'. Make links to the term 'armed' as in holding a weapon.)*
7. What simile does Phelps use to describe a borrowed book? *A book is like a house guest.*  
How is this imagery effective? *There are expectations in the way we treat guests. We look after them. We are careful with them. We don't expect them to stay forever.*
8. What modal verbs does he use and how do they make him more persuasive? *'must' 'cannot' 'ought to'.* *He makes it seem that you are obliged to treat books carefully. It is not possible to damage them.*
9. How is Phelps' speech very different to the others? Why do you think that is? *It is calmer. The images are less dramatic. It seems less serious. The context and content of the speech is very different to the previous ones. This is about books. The previous were about life and death and during a time of war.*
10. Which speech do you think is the most persuasive? Explain why, giving examples. Any reasonable answer which gives examples to justify the choice.