Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream Speech”

**01. LISTENING ACTIVITY – Full Speech – I Have a Dream**

***Instructions:* Listen to the following part of King’s speech. Listen carefully to the pronunciation, intonation, and pausing.**

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 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…

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.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight.

**02. SPEAKING ACTIVITY – Mimicking the Phrases – I Have a Dream**

***Instructions:* Listen to the speech excerpt this time divided into phrases to repeat. Listen carefully for the silent blanks where you can repeat the previous phrase. Listen carefully for the pronunciation, intonation, and pausing to mimic the original phrases. Finally, listen and compare your recording with the original.**

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 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… / 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. / I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, / every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, / and the crooked places will be made straight.

**03. SPEAKING ACTIVITY – Filling in the Gaps – I Have a Dream**

***Instructions:* This time listen to the speech for gaps. Listen carefully for the gaps or silent areas where you fill in with the bolded and underlined phrase. Listen carefully for pronunciation, intonation, and pausing of the words. Finally, listen to the recording with your voice and the original together.**

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 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…

**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.**

**I have a dream** that one day every valley shall be **exalted,** every hill and mountain shall be made low, the **rough places** will be made plain, and the **crooked places** will be made straight.

**04. FULL SPEECH RECORDING ACTIVITY**

***Instructions:* Use Audacity to record the entire speech below. Then listen to your recording.**

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 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…

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.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight.