



WATCH & LEARN: NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS: POLITICS: U.S. PRESIDENTS

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS (2:46 min) VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 1/v724)

PRE-INTERMEDIATE (A2 - B1) AND ABOVE

- ◇ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◇ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◇ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting
Off

The Gettysburg Address is a speech that was given by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln in November 1863 and has become the most celebrated speech in American history.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Video Script:

Johnny Cash: "Four score and seven years ago"...so began the message of a war-weary President Abraham Lincoln. A message written on the back of an envelope on a train on the way to dedicate a battlefield where men from the North and South had died at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



Four score and seven years ago, our **forefathers brought forth**, on this continent, a new nation, **conceived** in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long **endure**. **We are met** on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to **dedicate** a portion of that field, as a **final resting place** for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether **fitting** and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot **consecrate**, we cannot **hallow** this ground. For the brave men, living and dead, who **struggled** here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or **deduct**. The world will **little note** nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have **thus far** so **nobly** advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great **task** remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave that last full measure of devotion; that we here highly **resolve** that these dead shall not have died **in vain**; and that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not **perish** from the Earth.

Discussion Questions:

- ◇ The Gettysburg Address is an example of a very short speech that had a lasting impact in history. What are the potential risks and rewards of being so brief?
- ◇ What are some of the most important speeches in the history of your country and why are they remembered today?
- ◇ Is it very important that the leader of a nation be a strong public speaker?

Vocabulary:

- **four score** - 80
- **weary** - tired
- **forefathers** - ancestors
- **brought forth** - created, generate, brought into existence
- **conceived** - formed an idea, developed a thought
- **endure** - last, continue despite difficult conditions or hardships
- **we are met** - we meet
- **dedicate** - open for public use
- **final resting place** - grave, tomb
- **fitting** - appropriate
- **consecrate** - declare as sacred
- **hallow** - consecrate, declare as sacred or holy
- **struggled** - fought, tried very hard to do something difficult
- **detract** - make something seem less good or less important or, to reduce in value
- **little note** - not pay much attention
- **thus far** - up until now, so far
- **nobly** - honourably
- **task** - a piece of work, job
- **resolve** - decide with determination
- **in vain** - without any purpose, without a cause
- **perish** - die, disappear

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.