

Listening to the News 3

Voice of America



Listening to the News: Voice of America 3

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Partial transcript materials courtesy of voanews.com

Acquisitions Editor: John Thomas
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Cover/Interior Design: Design Plus

<http://www.compasspub.com>
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ISBN 978-1-59966-215-2

11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
15 14 13 12

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INTRODUCTION

Listening to the News: Voice of America 3 is designed for upper-intermediate students. It is designed to develop English language listening skills for academic purposes. *Listening to the News: Voice of America 3* can be used by individual learners or groups.

Voice of America (VOA) is a well-known broadcasting service from the United States. It has been providing English-language news broadcasts that have helped many people around the world learn English from the comfort of their own homes.

The news is an ideal medium for training listening skills. With carefully selected material sourced from VOAnews.com, this series guides students' attention through different levels of information extraction. There are also further opportunities to engage in discussion about the topics, creating the potential for a complete, fully interactive listening course book. Not only does this type of guided learning develop overall English ability, but the structured comprehension questions are also indispensable for English exam preparation.

Each book is divided into four chapters: "American Life," "General Interest," "Science," and "World Interest." Within these chapters there are five units, each containing a topical program from VOAnews.com, on which all ensuing questions and activities are based.

How the Book Is Organized:

Warm-Up

This section is designed to introduce the topic of the program the students are about to listen to. It features a written statement, followed by a question. The students can start to engage with each other and discuss their initial ideas of how each topic is relevant to them.

Vocabulary Preview

A selection of challenging words and their definitions is presented. These words are taken from the main program that the students are about to listen to. This vocabulary can also be useful for longer-term usage within academic contexts.

Note-Taking

The students can listen to the program and take notes as they listen along. The idea is for students to be able to understand enough of the material to complete the scaffolded notes that are given in this section. Students will also check similar answers occasionally placed in the summary activities. This simulates real note-taking when listening to an extended academic lecture. Students can listen to the program as many times as they need to.

Comprehension

Multiple-choice comprehension questions guide the student to further understanding of the program. This section is also designed to simulate common exam formats such as in the TOEFL® listening section.

Focus on Sounds

Sections of the program are isolated into individual sentences, and students need to fill the gaps with the missing words, which simulates a listening dictation exercise. Each unit has a different focus on the nature of the words that need to be filled in. For example, in *Listening to the News: Voice of America 3*, units target a phonetic area which might be problematic for certain groups of English language learners. Students can be tested at word and sound level on the accuracy of what they have comprehended while listening.

Summary

To further reinforce their comprehension, students need to fill the gaps within a summary paragraph with a list of provided words. By this stage, students should have internalized a fair amount of the main listening program. Answers will occasionally be repeated from the note-taking section to confirm student retention. This exercise helps students prepare for paraphrasing and summarizing in real academic contexts.

Dialog

As a complement to the program, students now have the chance to listen to another extended listening segment, this time in the form of a two-person dialog. The dialog is always on the same topic as the preceding program topic. Listening to a dialog and deducing information through follow-up multiple-choice questions is also common in many English language exams.

Expanded Reading

This is a written paragraph, providing questions for further discussion about the listening program and dialog topic. Students' vocabulary and background knowledge on the topic are further developed.

Think and Speak:

In order to solidify comprehension of the listening material, students practice verbalizing and discussing the given topics in an extended session. Students are given three stimulating questions to discuss with a partner. They can draft their partner's responses in the chart given below the questions, again simulating a note-taking/summarizing task for academic listening demands. Students should always be encouraged to discuss questions in as much detail as they can. A time limit can be set for discussion. Students can then be given the opportunity to present and compare their responses to those of other class members.

How to Use This Book for Study:

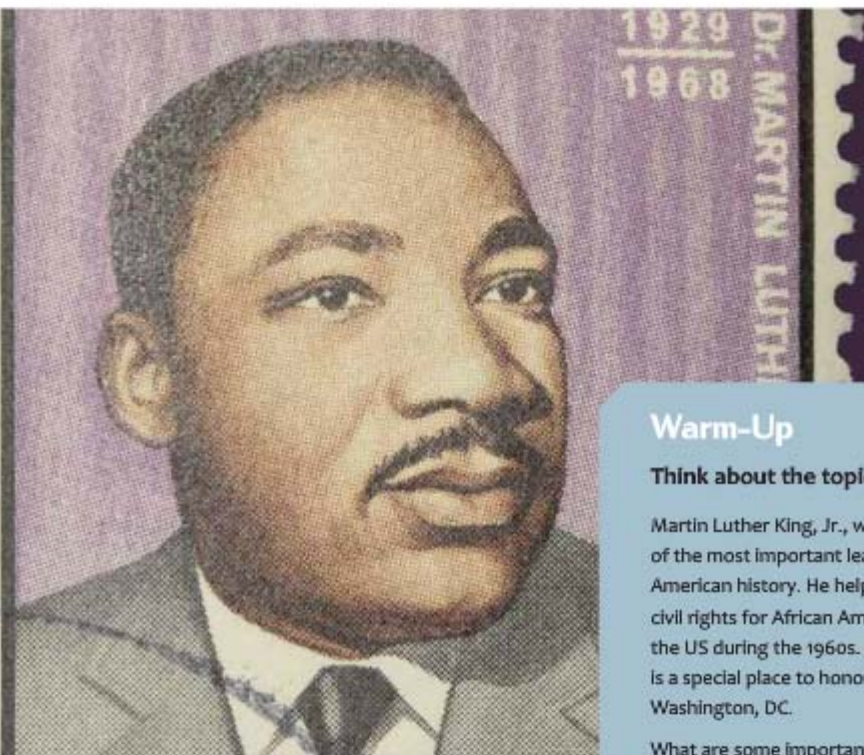
This book may be used in class for groups of learners as an important part of a complete course. Alternately, since the main material is based on an MP3 CD, it may easily be used for private self-study. Every section can be expanded on by allowing groups of students the opportunity for further discussion on the material that is presented. For individual learners, there is no limit to the number of times that the listening material and accompanying exercises can be reviewed. Any supplementary material or further homework practice can easily be sourced through the countless programs on the VOA.com website.

Other Features:

Full transcripts of the programs are provided at the back of the book to check any points that may have been particularly challenging for students. Dictation activities are included for additional practice. Answer keys are also given for all question sections of the book.

Further practice material can be found on the VOAnews.com website.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Warm-Up

Think about the topic.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of the most important leaders in American history. He helped gain civil rights for African Americans in the US during the 1960s. Now there is a special place to honor him in Washington, DC.

What are some important statues in your country? Where are they?

- 1 **memorial** a special place to honor someone who died
- 2 **slain** killed
- 3 **come to fruition** to finally happen
- 4 **granite** a type of gray rock
- 5 **prejudice** treating others negatively because they are different
- 6 **dedication** an action or speech to honor someone

NOTE-TAKING

Listen to the news, and complete the notes.



Memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, DC

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC:**
 - Includes statue, a wall of his (1 _____), and a (2 _____)
- **King in American history:**
 - Led (3 _____) in the segregated south
 - His efforts led to Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Law against discrimination
 - King was (4 _____) in 1968
- **Details of the memorial:**
 - Near memorials to Jefferson and Lincoln
 - Carved out of (5 _____) by Chinese artist
 - President Barack Obama may give the (6 _____) speech

bookstore
 protests
 granite
 quotations
 dedication
 slain

COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions.

- 1 Which of the following is NOT part of the memorial?
 - a. A bookstore
 - b. A statue of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - c. A wall of King's quotations
 - d. A shopping mall
- 2 What is the main reason for the memorial to King in Washington?
 - a. To remember the day that he was killed by an assassin
 - b. To honor his contribution to civil rights in America
 - c. To show that he was as good a speaker as Lincoln and Jefferson
 - d. To display the work of a talented sculptor
- 3 Why was Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin chosen to carve the memorial?
 - a. Because he is the only sculptor who can carve granite
 - b. Because he is the president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation
 - c. Because it supports King's message to not judge people by their race
 - d. Because he went to school with Martin Luther King, Jr.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS



Listen to the sentences twice, and fill in the blanks.



- The memorial will _____ a wall of quotations _____ his writings.
- The _____ is overjoyed that the project has come to _____.
- Martin Luther King was in the _____ of the American Civil Rights Movement.
- The law _____ discrimination based on sex, race, religion, or national origin.
- The _____ is a structure called the *Mountains of Despair*, a theme from King's _____ "I Have a Dream" speech.


Tips
The f sound → fun, fall, and cough

The f sound is made at the front of the mouth. Lightly touch your top teeth to your bottom lip. Try to blow air out of your mouth, forcing it between your teeth and lip. Then pull your bottom lip away from your teeth as you continue to push air out of your mouth.

SUMMARY

Complete the summary.

discrimination / marches / Civil / Mall / speech / Chinese

A memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., will be dedicated on the National

1 _____ in Washington, DC. King was an important leader in the

2 _____ Rights Movement during the 1960s in the United States.

He led 3 _____ and preached against the unfair treatment of African Americans in the south. His work helped to create a law that makes

4 _____ illegal. He was shot by an assassin in 1968. The memorial is made from a huge block of granite and features a statue of King carved by a

5 _____ artist. The dedication 6 _____ might be delivered by President Barack Obama.



BROAD View

DIALOG Remembering a Hero

Choose the best answer.



- 1 What happened to the man's father?
 - a. He was killed on a trip to France.
 - b. He died while building a huge granite memorial.
 - c. He was killed while fighting in a war.
 - d. He died of a severe case of the flu.
- 2 Why was the memorial created?
 - a. To remember a great artist who was important to the community
 - b. To honor people who died fighting in war
 - c. To mark the place where the man's father died
 - d. To display the medals earned by people from Tower City
- 3 What did the man's father receive during his war service?
 - a. Medals
 - b. A memory
 - c. Few meals
 - d. A memorial

EXPANDED READING

Read the passage below, and talk about the following questions.

As you have already learned, the National Mall in Washington, DC, is a very important place in America. The word "mall" is not a reference to a large building where you can go shopping. It is a large, open area in the center of Washington that stretches for three kilometers, from the Capitol Building to the Lincoln Memorial. The Mall is actually a National Park, and it is visited by over 24 million people each year. It is especially lovely in the spring, when the cherry trees are full of blossoms. In addition to the famous memorials to Presidents Lincoln and Jefferson, the Mall also features many memorials to the soldiers who were killed in battle, including in World War II and the Vietnam War. Tourists can also visit one of the many art galleries and museums along the Mall, including one of the most famous museums in the world—the Smithsonian.



- 1 Who was an important leader in your country's history? What did he/she do?