

Martin Luther King Jr.



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Who is the person in the picture?
2. What are some different ways to say and write this person's name?
3. Why is this person famous?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ | 1. equality (<i>noun</i>) | a) a religious leader |
| _____ | 2. minister (<i>noun</i>) | b) to damage with an explosion |
| <u>h</u> _____ | 3. civil (<i>adjective</i>) | c) behavior that causes harm |
| _____ | 4. protest (<i>noun</i>) | d) a presentation, spoken words in front of an audience |
| _____ | 5. bomb (<i>verb</i>) | e) having the same rights as everyone |
| _____ | 6. violence (<i>noun</i>) | f) to fire a gun |
| _____ | 7. speech (<i>noun</i>) | g) a show of disapproval in public |
| _____ | 8. shoot (<i>verb</i>) | h) of the people in a nation |

Reading

ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) cared about **equality**.
He wanted Black people to have equal rights in America.
2. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929.
He studied religion at university and became a **minister**.
In 1953, he married Coretta Scott. They had four children.
3. MLK didn't like how Black people were treated in the South.
He decided to become a **civil** rights leader. In the '50s and '60s,
he led many civil rights marches and **protests**. People **bombed**
his church and home, but he continued to fight for equal rights.
He did not believe in **violence**.
4. King became famous for his books and **speeches**.
People of all races liked his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech.
In 1964, Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize.
5. On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was **shot** and killed at a hotel
in Tennessee. Over 300,000 people attended his memorial service.



Writing

ABOUT MLK

Finish the *About MLK* sentences.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. was from

2. Martin Luther King Jr. cared about

3. MLK did not believe in

4. In 1968, MLK was

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F.

- _____ 1. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Africa.
- _____ 2. MLK had four children with Coretta Scott.
- _____ 3. MLK's supported violence at protests and marches.
- _____ 4. MLK led the civil rights movement in the 1970s.
- _____ 5. More than 300,000 people attended MLK's memorial service.

B. Forming Questions

Work with a partner. Here are the answers. What are the questions?

1. _____

Martin Luther King Jr. studied religion at university.

2. _____

MLK's wife was Coretta Scott.

3. _____

MLK was famous for his books and speeches about civil rights.

4. _____

MLK died on April 4, 1968.

Vocabulary Review

Circle the word that means the **opposite** as the word from the reading.

1. equal

- a) civil
- b) unfair
- c) right

3. violence

- a) bomb
- b) peace
- c) equal

5. fight

- a) protest
- b) bomb
- c) give up

2. protest

- a) accept
- b) fight
- c) right

4. won

- a) lost
- b) fought
- c) shot

6. leader

- a) follower
- b) minister
- c) speaker

Pair Work

*“Darkness cannot drive out darkness,
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate,
only love can do that.”*

—MLK

Circle the opposites in the quote above.

Discuss the quote with your class.

- I agree with this MLK quote.
- I disagree with this MLK quote.

Listening

A. Gap Fill

Listen to a recording of this reading.
Fill in the gaps. Listen again and check your answers.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) cared about _____ .
He wanted Black people to have equal rights in America.
2. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929.
He studied _____ at university and became
a _____. In 1953, he married Coretta Scott.
They had four children.
3. MLK didn't like how Black people were treated in the South. He decided
to become a _____ rights leader. In the '50s and '60s, he led
many civil rights marches and _____. People bombed
his church and home, but he continued to fight for equal rights. He did
not believe in _____ .
4. King became famous for his books and _____ .
People of all races liked his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech.
In 1964, Dr. King won the Nobel _____ Prize.
5. On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was _____ and killed at
a hotel in Tennessee. Over _____, _____ people attended his
memorial service.



B. Extra Practice

Do you want more listening practice?
After you fill in the gaps in Part A, listen to the recording a few more times.
Circle all of the words that have a long e sound.
Notice the different spellings of words with the /ee/ sound.

Pronunciation

The IPA symbol (in dictionaries) for long e is /i/.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read a short biography about Martin Luther King Jr. They learn and practice new vocabulary and practice recognizing opposites. They also discuss a famous MLK quote.

LEVEL: Low Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: Martin Luther King Jr., Martin Luther King, MLK, civil rights, civil rights movement, equality, race

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Discuss these questions as a class to find out what your students already know about this famous person.

1. This is Martin Luther King Jr.
2. He is referred to as Martin Luther King Jr., MLK, and Dr. King. In the reading, he is also referred to by only his last name (King).
3. He is famous because he was a leader of the civil rights movement in the US. He died fighting for the cause.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. e | 3. h | 5. b | 7. d |
| 2. a | 4. g | 6. c | 8. f |

Reading

Read the article together as a class or assign it as individual reading. Encourage your learners to circle any words that they don't know.

Writing

1. Martin Luther King Jr. was from Atlanta, Georgia.
2. Martin Luther King Jr. cared about equal rights / equality / civil rights.
3. MLK did not believe in violence.
4. In 1968, MLK was shot.

Comprehension

A. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. F – Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia.
2. T
3. F – MLK's led non-violent protests and marches.
4. F – MLK led the civil rights movement in the '50s and '60s.
5. T

B. FORMING QUESTIONS

Answers will vary.

1. What did Martin Luther King Jr. study at university?
2. Who was MLK's wife?
3. What was MLK famous for?
4. When did MLK die?

Vocabulary Review

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. c 6. a

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Pair Work

Have students complete the first step of this exercise individually (darkness/light, hate/love). Then place students in pairs to compare and discuss their sentences. Discuss the quote as a class.

Listening

Have students listen to the recording and fill in the gaps. You can download the recording on the website or stream it in class. It is also available on our podcast.

A. GAP FILL

1. equality
2. religion, minister
3. civil, protests, violence
4. speeches, Peace
5. shot, 300,000

B. EXTRA PRACTICE

1. equality, He, people, equal
2. Georgia, nineteen twenty-nine, He, studied, university, became, nineteen fifty-three, married
3. people, treated, He, become, leader, fifties, sixties, he, People, he, equal, He, believe
4. became, speeches, People, nineteen sixty-three, Dream, speech, nineteen sixty-four, Peace
5. nineteen sixty-eight, Tennessee, three hundred thousand, people, memorial

The following letters and combinations make the long e sound in this reading:

- e
- eo
- y (at the end of a word)
- ea
- i (when y becomes i before ed or es)
- i (before al)
- ie
- ee

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Behavior*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Behaviour*. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.