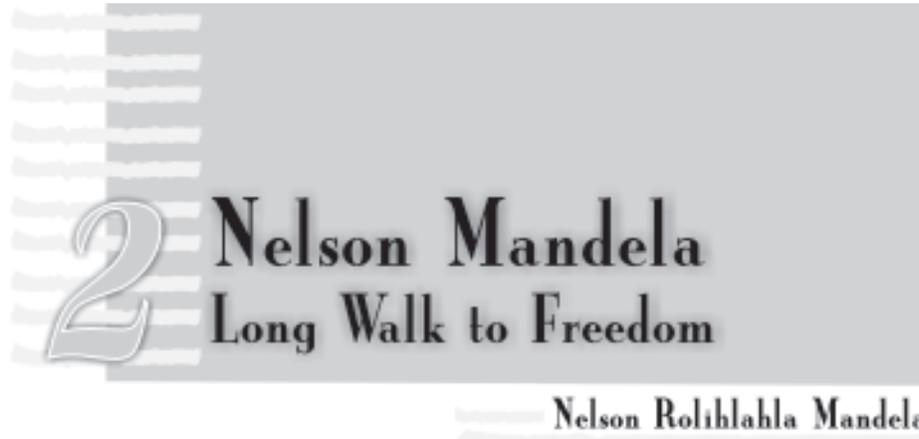


talk
to
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

First Flight



1. Watch and listen to the lesson

Click on the link below to watch a video of the lesson being read. Note the pronunciations of the words and read along using the subtitles.

[\(29\) Nelson Mendela Long Walk to Freedom - YouTube](#)

2. Background



South Africa is an independent country, on the southern-most tip of the continent of Africa. (It is shown in green on the map above). It had apartheid imposed on it by the white rulers in 1948.

In the native South African language called Afrikaans, apartheid means 'apartness'. Apartheid called for the separate development of the different racial groups in South Africa. Apartheid made laws that forcibly and cruelly forced the different racial groups to live separately and develop separately, and in a very unequal and unfair manner. It tried to stop all inter-marriage and social interaction between racial groups. During apartheid, friendship with someone of a different race resulted in suspicion or punishment. More than this, apartheid was a social system which severely disadvantaged the majority of the population, simply because they did not share the skin colour of the rulers. Many were kept just above poverty because they were 'non-white'.

The chapter we are reading, is an extract from the book, 'Long Walk to Freedom'. This is the autobiography of the first black South African President, Nelson Mandela. The book covers Mandela's life from his youth, lived in the shadow of the repressive regime of white ruled South Africa, where blacks like him were stripped of their basic human rights and dignity. He talks of his education and his role in the anti-apartheid movement. He also discusses the twenty-seven years he spent in prison on the infamous Robben Island. He was imprisoned as a terrorist for his role as a leader of the then-outlawed African National Congress that fought for independence. The narrative covers the end of the white rule and Mandela's inauguration as President in 1994.

Did you know that Gandhiji arrived in South Africa in 1893 at the age of 23 and lived there for 21 years? He had a major influence on the freedom movement in South Africa. Here is what Nelson Mandela said about him:

"Both Gandhi and I suffered colonial oppression, and both of us mobilized our respective peoples against governments that violated our freedoms. The Gandhian influence dominated freedom struggles on the African continent right up to the 1960s because of the power it generated and the unity it forged among the apparently powerless."

"Gandhi remained committed to nonviolence; I followed the Gandhian strategy for as long as I could."

3. Summary

This extract describes the inauguration of Mandela as the President of South Africa, attended by politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries. “Never, never again will this beautiful land experience the oppression of one by another,” said Nelson Mandela in his address. “In the first decade of the twentieth century, the white-skinned peoples of South Africa erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned peoples of their own land. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane, societies the world has ever known. In the last decade of the twentieth century, that system was overturned forever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin.”

This chapter also describes Mandela’s personal transformation. “It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, that forced a life-loving man to live like a monk.” He sacrificed his own needs to win freedom for his people.

On inauguration day, the gathering of people of different colours and castes was as colourful as a rainbow. Nelson Mandela said that the officers who earlier would have arrested him, were now saluting him; the army demonstrated their loyalty to the President by flying jets over the Union building in Pretoria, which once was the centre of white oppression.

This excerpt gives us an opportunity to understand Mandela’s profound views on freedom, and provides powerful insights into the mind and life of a truly remarkable figure in modern history.

We strongly encourage you to listen to Nelson Mandela’s inspiring Inaugural speech. His accent may be a little hard to understand, so please tap the **cc** button so you can read along. Here is the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJiXu4q_VU

Do you want to know more about him? Here is his life story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgQBoXsxr8w>

4. Vocabulary

1. **Apartheid** – a former policy of segregation and social, political and economic discrimination against non-European groups in South Africa
When **apartheid** was practised in South Africa, many countries had cut off relations with it.
2. **Extract** – a particular part of a book, poem, etc. that is chosen so that it can be used in a discussion, article, etc.
The **extract** from Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography, 'The story of My Experiments with Truth', was very inspiring.
3. **Inauguration** – a special ceremony at which a new public official or leader is introduced, or a building or organization is officially opened
The **inauguration** of the new Metro line was attended by all the important officials from that area.
4. **Amphitheatre** – a building without a roof and with rows of seats that rise in steps around an open space; amphitheatres were used in ancient Greece and Rome for public entertainment
The **amphitheatre** at the India Habitat Center on Lodhi Road often hosts big events.
5. **Dignitaries** – persons who have an important official position
The Prime Minister will be meeting local **dignitaries** to discuss the problems faced by people in this area.
6. **Oppression** – a situation in which people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom
Oppression by the cruel ruler forced the people to flee from their homes.
7. **Jubilant** – feeling or expressing great happiness, especially because of a success
The fans were **jubilant** after their team won the Championship cup.
8. **Appropriate** – suitable or right for a particular situation or occasion
This film is not **appropriate** for small children.

9. **Unimaginable** – difficult to imagine or think about something because it is so bad, good, big, etc.
He earned **unimaginable** wealth from the diamond mine and lived prosperously ever after.
10. **Supremacy** – a position in which you have more power, authority or status than anyone else
The early history of India is the story of a struggle for **supremacy** between kings.
11. **Overwhelmed** – caused someone to feel sudden strong emotion
I was **overwhelmed** by all the good wishes and flowers I received when I was in hospital.
12. **Resilience** – the ability to deal with any kind of hardship and recover from its effects
In spite of all the hardships faced by the refugees, their **resilience** helped them build a new life.
13. **Imagination** – the ability to form pictures in the mind
She has a very active **imagination** and can make up stories at the drop of a hat.
14. **Racial** – based on someone's race or colour especially in a way that is unfair or harmful; based on policies, behaviour, rules, etc. that result in unfair or harmful treatment of people because of their race
The law has done little to prevent **racial** inequality or injustice.
15. **Superiority** – the fact that one person or thing is better, stronger, etc. than another
The Indian cricket team soon showed their **superiority** over the other teams.
16. **Glimmer** – a slight sign of something good or positive; to shine faintly
When he started moving his fingers, there was a **glimmer** of hope that he would come out of the coma.
Moonlight **glimmered** on the pond.
17. **Humanity** – understanding and kindness towards other people; total human race
He showed his **humanity** by helping the migrants reach home safely.
Humanity is suffering because of COVID-19.

18. **Twilight** – the time just before night when the daylight has almost gone but when it is not completely dark.
In the **twilight**, I could barely make out the figure on the road ahead.
19. **Existence** – a particular way of life
Refugees in the slums led a miserable **existence**.
20. **Emotional** – having and expressing strong feelings
She felt very **emotional** during the wedding ceremony and started crying.
21. **Dawned** – when light from the sun began to appear in the sky; beginning of something new
Republic day **dawned** bright and clear.
When India won independence a new age **dawned** in our history.
22. **To be besieged by** – to be surrounded by a lot of people or by an army
Fans **besieged** the box office to try and get tickets for the concert.
23. **Ceremonies** – formal acts, often fixed and traditional, performed on important social or religious occasions
The wedding **ceremonies** took place in their village home.
24. **Installation** – an occasion when someone is put in an important job or position
The **installation** of the new government will take place at the end of the month.
25. **Non-racial** – something not influenced by race
Our company is completely **non-racial** and does not judge anyone by their race, religion or colour.
26. **Accompanied** – went with someone
I **accompanied** my mother when she went shopping at the mall.
27. **Podium** – a raised area on which a person stands to speak to a large number of people, to conduct music, or receive a prize in a sports competition.
We felt so proud when our son stood on the **podium** to receive the gold medal.

28. **Sworn in** – when someone is sworn in, they make a formal promise to be honest or loyal, either in court or when starting a new official job
The Prime Minister was **sworn in** at the Rashtrapati Bhawan by the President of India.
29. **Pledged** – made a serious or formal promise
He **pledged** his loyalty to his country.
30. **Uphold** – to defend or keep a principle or law
The new Principal tried to **uphold** the high educational standards set by the former Principal.
31. **Constitution** – a set of political principles by which a state or organization is governed, especially in relation to the rights of the people it governs
The **Constitution** of India states that India is a sovereign, socialist and secular democratic Republic.
32. **Devote** – to give your time and effort completely to something you believe in, or to a person
I decided to **devote** all my free time, after work, to study for the upcoming exam.
33. **Republic** – a country governed by elected representatives of the people rather than a king or queen
The **Republic** of China is situated in Taiwan and consists of people who moved there in 1949, after the Communist party took over mainland China.
34. **Assembled** – came together in a single place; fit together the separate parts (of a machine or other object)
We all **assembled** in the main hall to hear what the school Principal had to say.
We **assembled** the bed quite easily.
35. **Presence** – the fact that someone or something is in a place
The little child refused to recite the poem in the **presence** of so many strangers.
36. **Confer** – a formal word, meaning to give or award; exchange opinions
The government decided to **confer** the Padma Shri award on her, in recognition of her hard work among the migrants.
The doctors **conferred** on the best line of treatment for the patient.

37. **Newborn** – recently born
The **newborn** baby kept crying as she was hungry.
38. **Liberty** – the freedom to live as you wish or go where you want
We were at **liberty** to do as we pleased, once we had finished our homework in the evening.
39. **Experience** – process of getting knowledge or skill from doing, seeing, or feeling things
The **experience** of seeing the Taj Mahal in the moonlight was unforgettable.
40. **Extraordinary** – very unusual, special, unexpected, or strange
We listened with complete attention when he told us the **extraordinary** story of his escape from the enemy prison.
41. **Disaster** – an event that results in great harm, damage, death, or serious difficulty
The heavy rainfall in the north-east has resulted in a **disaster** and many people have died in the floods.
42. **Society** – a large group of people who live together in an organized way, making decisions about how to do things and sharing work that needs to be done; all people in a country, or several similar countries, can be referred to as a society
Our **society** is becoming more broadminded; so there are more inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.
43. **Outlaws** – people who have broken the law and live separately from society because they want to escape legal punishment; in this case, outlaws refers to the apartheid government of South Africa. Many countries had broken off diplomatic relations with South Africa due to its racist policies.
He was an **outlaw** living secretly in the cave to hide from the police.
44. **Privilege** – an advantage that only one person or a group of people has, usually because of their position, or because they are rich; an opportunity to do something special or enjoyable
Senior officers of the army enjoy many **privileges**, such as official cars and big houses.
It was a **privilege** to welcome the Minister of Education, when she visited our school.

45. **Distinguished** – used to describe a respected or admired person, or their work
Many **distinguished** people were present when the minister inaugurated the new library.
46. **International** – involving more than one country
He was the head of a large **international** company.
47. **Possession** – that fact that you own something; something you own
I have in my **possession**, a book that tells the story of the last Nawab of Oudh (Lucknow).
I have far too many **possessions**.
48. **Dignity** – calm, serious, and controlled behaviour that makes people respect you
With great **dignity**, our teacher walked on to the stage to receive the award from the President.
49. **Emancipation** – freedom from restriction
We should all work towards the **emancipation** of bonded labour.
50. **Bondage** – the state of being another person's slave, or under their complete control
The slaves were kept in **bondage** and made to work from early morning till late at night.
51. **Deprivation** – state of not having one's rightful benefits, a state of lack
Refugees in camps deal with many forms of physical and emotional **deprivation**.
52. **Gender** – the physical condition of being male or female
Testing to find out the **gender** of an unborn baby is illegal in India.
53. **Discrimination** – being treated differently or unfavourably
There should be no **discrimination** on the basis of gender, religion, caste or colour in our schools.
54. **Achievement** – something very good or difficult that you have succeeded in doing
It was a great **achievement** that he managed to run the entire marathon race.

55. **Reign** – to be the main feeling or quality in a situation or a person, rule of a king or monarch
There was a **reign** of terror in the village when the dacoits attacked it every night.
During the **reign** of King Ashoka, Buddhism took root in India.
56. **Spectacular array** – an impressive display (colourful and attractive)
During the Republic Day Parade, the **spectacular array** of the state tableaux was very informative and interesting.
57. **Troop carriers** – vehicles, ships or aircraft that have been designed to transport a lot of soldiers; in this case they were aircraft
The **troop carriers** landed at Srinagar airport, to rush soldiers to protect our borders.
58. **Formation** – the way something is naturally made or the way it has been arranged; in this case the arrangement of aircraft as they flew across the sky
The geese flew in a V **formation** across the sky.
59. **Pinpoint precision** – very exact position in space or time
We cannot tell you with **pinpoint precision** when the robbery actually took place.
60. **Demonstration** – the act of showing someone how to do something, or how something works
He gave us a **demonstration** of the new software.
61. **Loyalty** – feeling of support and duty towards something or someone
His **loyalty** to his country came before anything else.
62. **Bedecked** – decorated or covered
The bride was **bedecked** in a beautiful red sari and heavy gold jewellery.
63. **Not unmindful of** – conscious of, aware of
I was **not unmindful of** the great favour that he was doing to me by paying for my education.
64. **Chevron** – a pattern in the shape of a V
The planes flew overhead in the formation of a **chevron**.

65. **Symbolised** – represented something
Bowing the head before the Emperor **symbolised** respect.
66. **Vision** – an idea or mental image of something; eyesight; in this case a beautiful sight
She came into the room slowly, a **vision** of loveliness, in pink and white.
My grandfather's **vision** became very weak as he grew old.
67. **Lyrics** – the words of a song
She knew the **lyrics** of all the popular film songs by heart.
68. **Despised** – had a very low opinion of, hate
We all **despised** him for the way he treated his wife.
69. **Decade** – a period of ten years
During the last **decade**, climate change has resulted in a number of natural disasters.
70. **Patched up** – improved a relationship after earlier problems
After fighting for many years, Ramesh and his brother **patched up** their relationship after their father's death.
71. **Erected** – built a building, wall or other structure
They **erected** a high wall around the building for security.
72. **Structure** – the arrangement or organization of parts in a system; a building or something that has been made from a number of parts
The **structure** of the education system does not encourage students to think on their own.
The **structure** of the new school building is ready; the interiors need to be done.
73. **Basis** – the most important facts, ideas, etc. from which something is developed
The information that we obtained from the Internet was the **basis** of the report.
74. **Harshest** – most unpleasant, unkind, cruel, or more severe than necessary
The slaves were given the **harshest** punishment for small mistakes.

75. **Inhumane** – cruel and causing suffering to people or animals
The horse who pulled the tonga was treated **inhumanely** by the tonga driver.
It is **inhumane** to torture prisoners to extract information.
76. **Overtured** – changed a system or legal decision
The high court **overtured** the lower court's order and set the prisoner free.
77. **Replaced** – took the place of something or someone
The syllabus has been changed, and the old textbooks have been **replaced** by new ones.
78. **Recognised** – accepted that something is legal, true or important
The government **recognised** that corruption was a huge problem, and set up a committee to solve the problem.
79. **Regardless** – despite; not being affected by something
The teacher continued to criticise the school, **regardless** of the fact that the Principal was really upset with her.
80. **Sacrifices** – to give up some things that are valuable to you in order to help another person or a cause
Rita had to **sacrifice** her career and stay at home to bring up her children.
81. **Patriots** – persons who love their country, and if necessary will fight for it
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was a true **patriot** who fought for the independence of our country.
82. **Noble** – moral, honest, brave, and kind
Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi was a **noble** queen who fought against the British in India's first War of Independence in 1857.
83. **Wrought** – old fashioned word meaning done, achieved
The Covid-19 virus has **wrought** havoc in our country.
84. **Wound** – a damaged area of the body, such as cut or hole in the skin or flesh
The **wound** was very deep and the Doctor had to put in six stitches to close it.

85. **Generations** – all of the people born and living at about the same time
There were three **generations** at the wedding, the children, their parents and grandparents.
86. **Recovering** – becoming well again after an illness or injury
She is at home, **recovering** after the operation.
87. **Profound** – felt very strongly or in an extreme way; having or showing great knowledge or insight
His mother died when he was just five years old and it had a **profound** effect on him.
Nelson Mandela's speech was very **profound**.
88. **Brutality** – behaviour that is cruel or violent and showing no feelings for others
The **brutality** of the Nazis towards the Jews was unimaginable.
89. **Unintended** – not planned for, or not meant
The decision to allow mining in the forest will have **unintended** effects on the climate of that region.
90. **Prominent** – very well-known and important
There were many **prominent** people at the party.
91. **Generosity** – giving help or support, especially with money
We thank the councillor for his **generosity** in providing money to build a park here.
92. **Character** – the qualities in a person or place that makes them different from others
Welcoming guests into our homes is traditionally a part of the Indian **character** and culture.
93. **Comrades** – friends, especially those who have been involved with you in difficult or dangerous activities
Many of his **comrades** were killed in the fighting on the border.
94. **Torture** – the act of causing great physical or mental pain, usually in order to get someone to do something or give some information, or as punishment
All the prisoners of war were **tortured** constantly by the enemy.

95. **Defies** – to be extreme or very strange and therefore impossible to believe, describe or explain; openly resist or refuse to obey.
The poor condition of the hospital **defies** description.
My son is impossible to control; he **defies** me all the time.
96. **Triumph** – a very great success, achievement or victory
The elimination of small pox from the world was a great **triumph**.
97. **Background** – your family, experience, education, living conditions, money, etc.; the circumstances or situation prevailing at a particular time or underlying a particular event; the things that can be seen behind the main person or object in a picture
She comes from a wealthy **background** and had a very lavish wedding.
You have to understand the child's defiance against the **background** of the fact that he was physically abused.
The girl's photograph has mountains in the **background**.
98. **Naturally** – in a normal way
When you go for the interview, relax and behave **naturally**.
99. **Grimmest** – most serious or sad; without hope
Even in our **grimmiest** hour, we should not lose faith in God.
100. **Pushed to our limits** – pushed to the last point in our ability to bear anything
Even though we were **pushed to our limits**, we continued on the steep uphill climb.
101. **Reassure** – to comfort someone and stop them from worrying
He **reassured** me that my pension would soon get deposited in my bank account.
102. **Extinguished** – stopped a fire or a light burning, to end or destroy
The fire-fighters **extinguished** the fire after almost three hours.
All my hopes of studying further were **extinguished** when my father lost his job.
103. **Attitude** – a feeling or opinion about something or someone, or a way of behaving that is caused by this
He has a very bad **attitude** towards work.

104. **Obligations** – some things that one must do
She had to fulfil all her **obligations** towards her family before thinking about her own needs.
105. **Community** – people living in one particular area or people considered to be one unit because of their common interests, social group or nationality
He is well-known in the local **community** for helping anyone in need.
106. **Civil** – not military or religious; relating to the ordinary people of the country; polite and formal
After many years of military dictatorship, the country now has a **civil** government.
The entire family behaved in a **civil** way with her, but were not very friendly.
107. **Inclinations** – natural tendencies to behave in a particular way
My own **inclinations** did not allow me to treat her badly.
108. **Abilities** – the powers or skills needed to do something, or the fact that someone is able to do something
We should develop a broad range of **abilities** so that we can handle many different situations.
109. **Attempted** – tried to do something, especially something difficult
I **attempted** to solve the Maths problem on my own, but I had to go to my teacher for help.
110. **Isolated** – separated from other people; not near to other places
The Covid-19 patient was **isolated** in a separate room.
Their farm is far away and completely **isolated**.
111. **Inevitably** – unavoidably
Their fights **inevitably** end with them not speaking to each other for a few days.
112. **Ripped** – torn or pulled apart violently and quickly
I ripped my dress on that barbed wire.
113. **Secrecy** – the state of keeping something or some fact hidden
The rebels made their plans in **secrecy** and attacked the building at night.

114. **Rebellion** – violent action organised by a group of people who are trying to change the political system in their country
The first major **rebellion** against British rule in India happened in 1857.
115. **Prevented** – stopped something from happening or someone from doing something
Bad weather **prevented** the match from taking place.
116. **Fulfilling** – doing something that is expected, hoped for, or promised, or causing it to happen
She worked hard at **fulfilling** her dream of becoming a pilot.
117. **Roast** – to cook food in an oven or over a fire
I asked my mother to **roast** the corn cob over the open fire.
118. **Mealies** – corn or maize; a coarse flour made from maize
The hawker was selling roasted **mealies** on the pavement.
119. **Abided by** – accepted or obeyed an agreement, decision, or rule
All the students **abided by** the strict rules of the school.
120. **Illusion** – something that appears to be real, but is not
She was under the **illusion** that the house would be built before the end of the year.
121. **Transitory** – not permanent
Life is **transitory** and we should enjoy it as much as we can.
122. **Yearned** – wished for something very strongly, especially for something that one cannot have, or is difficult to have
She **yearned** to please her mother, but her mother was very difficult and hard to please.
123. **Honourable** – honest and fair, or deserving praise and respect
He is an **honourable** person and will certainly keep his promise.
124. **Potential** – having or showing the capacity to develop into something in the future
She lived up to her **potential** and came first in the university.
125. **Obstructed** – prevented something from happening correctly by putting difficulties in its way; blocked a road, passage, entrance, etc.
Her parents **obstructed** all her attempts to go overseas to study law.

126. **Curtailed** – reduced, cut short
I **curtailed** my holiday and rushed home when I heard that my mother was sick.
127. **Animated** – caused something or someone to be more active or full of life
His speech **animated** the crowd and the people started shouting slogans against the government.
128. **Transformed** – completely changed the appearance or character of something or someone
The new hairstyle completely **transformed** her appearance.
129. **Law-abiding** – someone who obeys the law
As a **law-abiding** citizen, it is your duty to report this accident to the police.
130. **Criminal** – someone who commits a crime
The dangerous **criminal** was taken to court in handcuffs.
131. **Monk** – a member of a religious group who lives a simple and spiritual life
The Buddhist **monk** went from door to door begging for food.
132. **Virtuous** – having good moral qualities and behaviour
He is a **virtuous** person and will never tell a lie.
133. **Self-sacrificing** – giving up what one wants so that other people can have what they want
The soldier's **self-sacrificing** act saved the lives of all the villagers.
134. **Limited** – small in amount or number; kept within a particular size, range or time
The number of passengers on the bus is **limited** to thirty, in order to maintain social distancing.
135. **Indivisible** – cannot to be separated from something else, or into different parts
The number zero is **indivisible**.
136. **Oppressor** – someone who treats people in a cruel way and prevents them from having opportunities or freedom
The entire village rebelled against the **oppressor** and threw him out.

137. **Prejudice** – a strong dislike without any good reason
In the United States of America, there is still a lot of racial **prejudice**.
138. **Narrow-mindedness** – unwilling to accept ideas that are different from yours
She went away to the big city to escape the **narrow-mindedness** of the people in her village.

5. Questions

I. Activity

In Column A are some expressions you will find in the text. Make a guess and match each expression with an appropriate meaning from Column B.

A	B
(i) <i>A rainbow gathering of different colours and nations</i>	— <i>A great ability (almost unimaginable) to remain unchanged by suffering (not losing hope, goodness or courage)</i>
(ii) <i>The seat of white supremacy</i>	— <i>A half-secret life, like a life lived in the fading light between sunset and darkness</i>
(iii) <i>Be overwhelmed with a sense of history</i>	— <i>A sign of human feeling (goodness, kindness, pity, justice, etc.)</i>
(iv) <i>Resilience that defies the imagination</i>	— <i>A beautiful coming together of various peoples, like the colours in a rainbow</i>
(v) <i>A glimmer of humanity</i>	— <i>The centre of racial superiority</i>
(vi) <i>A twilight existence</i>	— <i>Feel deeply emotional, remembering and understanding all the past events that have led up to the moment</i>

II. Oral Comprehension Check

- 1. Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone?**
- 2. Can you say how 10 May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa?**
- 3. At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions "an extraordinary human disaster". What does he mean by this? What is the "glorious ... human achievement" he speaks of at the end?**
- 4. What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?**
- 5. What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?**
- 6. What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?**
- 7. Why were two national anthems sung?**
- 8. How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country (i) in the first decade, and (ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?**
- 9. What does courage mean to Mandela?**
- 10. Which does he think is natural, to love or to hate?**
- 11. What "twin obligations" does Mandela mention?**
- 12. What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these "transitory freedoms" with "the basic and honourable freedoms"?**
- 13. Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/Why not?**

III. Thinking About the Text

1. Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration? What did it signify the triumph of?
2. What does Mandela mean when he says he is “simply the sum of all those African patriots” who had gone before him?
3. Would you agree that the “depths of oppression” create “heights of character? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument?
4. How did Mandela’s understanding of freedom change with age and experience?
5. How did Mandela’s ‘hunger for freedom’ change his life?

6. Grammar

Thinking about Language

- I. There are nouns in the text (*formation, government*) which are formed from the corresponding verbs (*form, govern*) by suffixing *-(at)ion* or *ment*. There may be a change in the spelling of some verb – noun pairs: such as *rebel, rebellion; constitute, constitution*.

1. **Make a list of such pairs of nouns and verbs in the text.**

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Verb</i>
Rebellion	Rebel
Constitution	Constitute

2. Read the paragraph below. Fill in the blanks with the noun forms of the verbs in brackets.

Martin Luther King's _____ (contribute) to our history as an outstanding leader began when he came to the _____ (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. In those days American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizenship by restrictive laws and customs. To break these laws would mean _____ (subjugate) and _____ (humiliate) by the police and the legal system. Beatings, _____ (imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who defied the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent _____ (resist) to racial injustice.

II. Using the Definite Article with Names

You know that the definite article 'the' is not normally used before proper nouns. Nor do proper nouns usually occur in the plural. (We do not say: **The Nelson Mandela*, or **Nelson Mandelas*.) But now look at this sentence from the text:

... The decades of oppression and brutality ... produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter Sisulus, ... of our time.

Used in this way with *the* and/or in the plural, a proper noun carries a special meaning. For example, what do you think the names above mean? Choose the right answer.

- (a) *for example* Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, ...
(b) *many other men like* Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu .../many men of their type or kind, whose names may not be as well known.

Did you choose option (b)? Then you have the right answer!

Here are some more examples of 'the' used with proper names. Try to say what these sentences mean. (You may consult a dictionary if you wish. Look at the entry for 'the'.)

1. Mr Singh regularly invites the Amitabh Bachchans and the Shah Rukh Khans to his parties.

2. Many people think that Madhuri Dixit is the Madhubala of our times.
3. History is not only the story of the Alexanders, the Napoleons and the Hitlers, but of ordinary people as well.

III. Idiomatic Expressions

Match the italicised phrases in Column A with the phrase nearest in meaning in Column B. (*Hint: First look for the sentence in the text in which the phrase in Column A occurs.*)

A	B
1. I was <i>not unmindful of</i> the fact	(i) had not forgotten; was aware of the fact (ii) was not careful about the fact (iii) forgot or was not aware of the fact
2. when my comrades and I were <i>pushed to our limits</i>	(i) pushed by the guards to the wall (ii) took more than our share of beatings (iii) felt that we could not endure the suffering any longer
3. to reassure me and <i>keep me going</i>	(i) make me go on walking (ii) help me continue to live in hope in this very difficult situation (iii) make me remain without complaining
4. the basic and honourable freedoms of... <i>earning my keep</i> , ...	(i) earning enough money to live on (ii) keeping what I earned (iii) getting a good salary

7. Speaking

In groups, discuss the issues suggested in the box below. Then prepare a speech of about two minutes on the following topic. (First make notes for your speech in writing.)

True liberty is freedom from poverty, deprivation and all forms of discrimination.

- causes of poverty and means of overcoming it
- discrimination based on gender, religion, class, etc.
- constitutionally guaranteed human rights

8. Writing

i. Looking at Contrasts

Nelson Mandela's writing is marked by *balance*: many sentences have two parts in balance.

Use the following phrases to complete the sentences given below.

- (i) they can be taught to love.
- (ii) I was born free.
- (iii) but the triumph over it.
- (iv) but he who conquers that fear.
- (v) to create such heights of character.

1. It requires such depths of oppression _____
2. Courage was not the absence of fear _____
3. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid _____
4. If people can learn to hate _____
5. I was not born with a hunger to be free. _____

- ii. This text repeatedly contrasts the past with the present or the future. We can use coordinated clauses to contrast two views, for emphasis or effect.

Given below are sentences carrying one part of the contrast. Find in the text the second part of the contrast, and complete each item. Identify the words which signal the contrast. This has been done for you in the first item.

1. *For decades* the union buildings had been the seat of white supremacy *and now* _____
2. Only moments *before* the highest generals of the South African defence force and police..... saluted me and pledged their loyalty..... not so many years before they would not have saluted _____
3. Although that day neither group knew the lyrics of the anthem, they would soon _____
4. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, _____
5. The Air Show was not only a display of pinpoint precision and military force, but _____
6. It was this desire for the freedom of my people that transformed _____ into a bold one that drove _____ to become a criminal that turned _____ into a man without a home.

iii. Expressing Your Opinion

Do you think there is colour prejudice in our own country? Discuss this with your friend and write a paragraph of about 100 to 150 words about this. You have the option of making your paragraph a humorous one. (Read the short verse given below.)

**When you were born you were pink
When you grew up you became white
When you are in the sun you are red
When you are sick you are yellow
When you are angry you are purple
When you are shocked you are grey
And you have the cheek to call me 'coloured'.**



In this lesson

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

Shared Nelson Mandela's moving description of his inauguration as South Africa's first black President, and his thoughts on freedom.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Divide your class into three groups and give each group one of the following topics to research: (i) black Americans, and their fight against discrimination, (ii) women, and their fight for equality, (iii) the Vietnamese, and their fight for independence.

Choose a student from each group to present a short summary of each topic to the class.

Homophones

Can you find the words below that are spelt similarly, and sometimes even pronounced similarly, but have very different meanings? Check their pronunciation and meaning in a dictionary.

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.