

English exercises 11/12

Monday 15/02/2021

08:15 – 09:40

Worksheet *The US then and now p.17* number 5 (Choose four sound bites and explain their function)
+ number 6

Worksheet *Stylistic Devices* (as reference for your analysis)

Thursday 18/02/2021

09:55 – 11:25

Worksheet *The US then and now p. 18 Part C Analysing and extract from a speech*: Read the speech
I also recommend watching the speech to get a better understanding for your analysis.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOL7wzEIZSc

Title: Barack Obama's Victory Speech Full - Election 2016

Posted by: Wall Street Journal

Length: 20 minutes 39 second

Excerpts as per the extract:

0:00 - 1:47

9:28 - 11:06

11:35 - 11:50

19:00 - 20:39

General structure of a speech:

A speech contains three parts: the **introduction**, the **body** and the **conclusion**.

Introduction: In the introduction you express your gratitude for being invited as a speaker; you establish contact with your audience; you want to grab their attention.


You can do this by:

- addressing the audience directly
- creating a positive atmosphere by using humour
- telling an exciting anecdote
- use an easy-going style

(taken from: Sicher in Landesabitur. Methodenheft mit CD-Rom. Abi Workshop Englisch. Hessen Klett, Stuttgart 2017)

1. Analyse how Barack Obama establishes contact with the audience in the beginning of his speech.
2. Worksheet *The US then and now p. 18 Part C Analysing and extract from a speech* number 7
Analysis

(The worksheets are copies from *Green Line, Oberstufe, Hessen. Klett: Stuttgart, 2016* and *Sicher in Landesabitur. Methodenheft mit CD-Rom. Abi Workshop Englisch. Hessen Klett, Stuttgart 2017*)

5 **SPEAKING**  In groups use the grid on the previous page and the useful phrases box here to explain the function(s) of the 'sound bites' from speeches below. Repeat them aloud with appropriate body language for effect!

1. "Get active and become involved!"
2. "Most African dictators are cruel and corrupt."
3. "This is the lesson history teaches: never give in, never give up and never ..."
4. "Every citizen has these human rights. Every politician must respect them."
5. "Imagine living in the street or on the run: cold, lonely and frightened."
6. "We have to work together. That is our only chance to make a difference!"
7. "This is a question of war and peace, life and death!"

Four presidents talk about their hopes for their nation

Thomas Jefferson (1801)

Let us with courage and confidence pursue our [...] attachment to union and representative government. [...] Possessing a chosen country, with room enough for our descendants to the thousandth and thousandth generation [...] enlightened by honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude and the love of man [...] with all these blessings, what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people?



Abraham Lincoln (1863)

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 the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



John F. Kennedy (1961)

Let every nation know that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.



William J. Clinton (1997)

Thirty-four years ago, the man whose life we celebrate today spoke to us. Like a prophet of old, he told of his dream that one day America would rise up and treat all its citizens as equals before the law and in the heart. Martin Luther King's dream was the American Dream. [...] May those generations we cannot see yet say of us that we led our beloved land into a new century with America's bright flame of freedom spreading throughout all the world.



USEFUL PHRASES

Talking about function

- The function/aim/purpose of ... is to ...
- The intention behind this ... is to ...
- The speaker uses/makes use of/employs this device in order to ...
- By using a device, the speaker tries/hopes/aims to achieve ...
- A device serves/helps ...
- The function/effect of ...

- ² to pursue [po'su:] to follow
- ⁵ descendants [dɪ'sendənt] Nachfahren
- ⁶ temperance Mäßigung
- ¹² devotion loyalty
- ¹³ to resolve to decide
- ¹⁴ in vain without success or a result
- ¹⁶ to perish to die
- ²⁰ foe enemy
- ²⁴ of old von früher

USEFUL PHRASES

Talking about dreams

- to have a dream of (doing) sth
- a dream comes true/is realised
- to fulfil/realise a dream
- to keep a dream alive
- to make a dream come true
- a dream may turn into a nightmare

6 **ANALYSIS** What rhetorical devices or other strategies did the four presidents use to convey their visions and values? First work alone, and then share your ideas with a partner and afterwards with the whole class.

Part C Analysing an extract from a speech

USEFUL PHRASES

Talking about a line of argument

The speaker starts off with points out that

claims

demands

provides information about

presents facts on

focuses on

offers solutions to/for promises



⁵ despair loss of hope

¹⁴ legacy *Erbe*

²⁷ to pledge to solemnly promise

Barack Obama's victory speech, November 2012

Tonight, more than 200 years after a former colony won the right to determine its own destiny, the task of perfecting our union moves forward.

It moves forward because of you. It moves forward because you reaffirmed the spirit that has triumphed over war and depression, the spirit that has lifted this country from the depths of despair to the great heights of hope, the belief that while each of us will pursue our own individual dreams, we are an American family, and we rise or fall together as one nation and as one people.

Tonight, in this election, you, the American people, reminded us that while our road has been hard, while our journey has been long, we have picked ourselves up, we have fought our way back, and we know in our hearts that for the United States of America, the best is yet to come. [...] Despite all our differences, most of us share certain hopes for America's future.

We want our kids to grow up in a country where they have access to the best schools and the best teachers – a country that lives up to its legacy as the global leader in technology and discovery and innovation – with all of the good jobs and new businesses that follow.

We want our children to live in an America that isn't burdened by debt, that isn't weakened up by inequality, that isn't threatened by the destructive power of a warming planet.

We want to pass on a country that's safe and respected and admired around the world, a nation that is defended by the strongest military on Earth and the best troops this – this world has ever known – but also a country that moves with confidence beyond this time of war to shape a peace that is built on the promise of freedom and dignity for every human being.

We believe in a generous America, in a compassionate America, in a tolerant America open to the dreams of an immigrant's daughter who studies in our schools and pledges to our flag [...]. That's the future we hope for. That's the vision we share. That's where we need to go – forward. That's where we need to go. [...]

America, I believe we can build on the progress we've made and continue to fight for new jobs and new opportunities and new security for the middle class. I believe we can keep the promise of our founders, the idea that if you're willing to work hard, it doesn't matter who you are or where you come from or what you look like or who you love. It doesn't matter whether you're black or white or Hispanic or Asian or Native American or young or old or rich or poor, abled or disabled, gay or straight. You can make it here in America if you're willing to try.


USEFUL PHRASES

Talking about body language

His (lack of) eye contact with the audience captivates (alienates) ...

The speaker's erect/relaxed posture conveys the message ...

His conscious use of hand gestures suggests ...

- 7 ANALYSIS** Examine how President Obama sends a message of shared values and hopes to his supporters after being declared the winner in the election. Consider his line of argument and use of rhetorical devices.
- 8 SPEAKING**  Practice presenting this speech in small groups. Pay attention to body language, voice inflection and maintaining contact with the audience. → \$15
- 9 CREATIVE TASK** Write a speech on a topic that interests you and deliver it to the class. → Δ2

1.3 Content

Give a short summary of the excerpts from Obama's speech.

In his speech, President Obama ...

1.4 Stylistic devices

Stylistic devices are not only found in literary texts, but they are essential to any type of good writing. Here are some of the most important stylistic devices.

On the level of sounds





Stylistic device	Function/effect	Example
Alliteration: repetition of a sound (usually a consonant) at the beginning of neighbouring words	to give emphasis and stress connections	the <i>first</i> , the <i>fastest</i> and the <i>fittest</i>
Assonance: identical vowel sounds in two or more words	to put emphasis on sth; to coin a memorable phrase	Sweet <i>dreams</i>

On the level of words

Stylistic device	Function/effect	Example
Anaphora: one or more words are repeated at the beginning of neighbouring sentences	to put emphasis on sth	<i>It is our city. It is our decision. It is our future.</i>
Metaphor: a comparison between two objects or ideas, <i>without</i> a word of comparison ("like", "as" or "as if")	specification	Holidays are heaven.
Simile: a comparison between two objects or ideas, using "like", "as" or "as if"	specification	Holidays are <i>like</i> heaven.
Synonyms: two words with the same meaning	to put emphasis on sth	He was <i>heavily drunk</i> and <i>intoxicated</i> .
Hyperbole: an overstatement/exaggeration	used to emphasise a particular feeling	I've told you <i>a million times</i> not to exaggerate.
Personification: something is presented as an active living being	to emphasise the power of something	The sea devoured the ship.

Now use your skills

Analyse the stylistic devices Barack Obama uses and their effect on the reader. Fill in the gaps.

Quote from the text	Stylistic device	Function/effect
"[...] kept me [...], and kept me [...], and kept me [...]" (l.9)		
"[...] life, liberty [...]" (l.19)		
"[...] slaves to brave [...]" (l.26)	