

PART – II ENGLISH (B.A, B.SC, B.COM, B.COM (CA)

**SUBJECT NAME: ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION
SKILLS-II**

Mr. L. KANNAN

I HAVE A DREAM

- MARTIN LUTHER KING

About The Author:

- Martin Luther King Jr is one of the Most important activists in African-American history. He was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement, an organization that wanted to end racial discrimination against Blacks.

- King and his movement are respected for achieving their political goals without violence and for fighting for unity between Blacks and Whites.

- King was born in January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was a revered and both of his Parents were devout Christians. He became a pastor at the age of Twenty-five and received and his doctorate in theology in 1955.

- A few years after graduation, king visited Indian to learn about Mahatma Gandhi, the person who influence him not to use violence in his struggle. Martin Luther King Day is celebrated on the third Monday of January. It is a holiday and people do not go to work or school. It many cities and towns, people march in the streets to honour him.

- Martin Luther King was assassinated in April 4, 1968 while giving a speech in Memphis. He was shot by a crazy man. His death caused many race riots across the country as well as accusations of a conspiracy by the FBI.

▶ About 'I Have A Dream'

- A Public Speech
 - Delivered by American civil activist Martin Luther King
 - Time: On August 28, 1963
 - Place: Lincoln Memorial
 - Over 2,50,000 civil rights supporters
 - a Definition moment of the American Civil Rights Movement



Background:

- ❖ The March On Washington for jobs and freedom was partly intended to demonstrate mass support for the civil rights legislation proposed by President Kennedy in June.
- ❖ Martin Luther King and other leaders therefore agreed to keep their speeches calm, also, to avoid provoking the civil disobedience which had become the hallmark of the civil rights movement.
- ❖ King originally designed his speech as a homage to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, timed to correspond with the 100 year centennial of the Emancipation



About the Speech:

- King's speech invokes the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the United States Constitution, Early in this speech, King alludes to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by saying "Five Score Years ago."
- In reference to the abolition of slavery articulated in the Emancipation Proclamation, King says, It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.
- Early in His speech King Urges his audience to seize the moment "Now is the time" is repeated three times in the sixth paragraph. The most widely cited example of anaphora is found in the often quoted phrase "I Have a Dream" which is repeated eight times as King paints a picture an integrated and unified America for his audience.
- Other occasion include "One hundred years later", " We can never Satisfied", "with his faith", "Let freedom ring", and "free at last".

Main Message of the Speech:

- The ideas in the speech reflect King's social experience of ethnocentric abuse, then mistreatment and exploitation of blacks.
- The speech draws upon appeals to America's myths as a nation founded to provide freedom and justice to all people, and then reinforces and transcends those secular mythologies by placing them within a spiritual context by arguing that racial justice is also in accord with God's will.
- To give African Americans the freedom and equality they deserve.

Three Factors of Impact Speech:

- The remarkable emotion of King's delivery in terms of both voice and body.
- The site which it was delivered – on the steps of memorial to the President who defeated southern states over the issue of slavery.
- The mood of the day, a sense of perpetuated slavery among black people and the gradual realisation of a sense of guilt among white people.

Explain about the King's Speech:

- "I Have a Dream" is a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King. It is considered one of his most famous speeches delivered in Washington, March 1963. The aim was to advocate for equal rights in access to freedoms and jobs. Dr. King narrated this speech at the Lincoln Memorial in the city of Washington, D.C.
- Within this speech, Luther King expressed his notorious conviction and the hope he has for America as well as the need to have changed. He opens his speech by stating his delight in being together with the empathizers, and those who turned out for the march.
- King commemorates the signing of the emancipation proclamation a hundred years before the march by Abraham Lincoln. He proclaims that it is "joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity." After that, he delves into the issues faced by African Americans in the year 1963, claiming that over 100 years later, they still lack freedom.
- That everybody has unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and this encompasses both black and white men. King laments that America has defaulted on the check whereby black citizens have been deprived of these rights.

- Luther King takes a more optimistic tone by reiterating that the “bank of justice” does not lack funds. Additionally, he claims that there is a sense of urgency in their mission. His exact words are, “This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.”
- He makes use of the four seasons as a metaphor to describe this urgency by stating that the legitimate dissatisfaction of African Americans is a “sweltering summer;” and that equality and freedom shall be like “invigorating autumn.” he makes a promise that this particular protest shall not easily vanish.
- However, Dr. King offers a word of caution to his people not to indulge in any unlawful deeds. He advises them that, “let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.” such a sentiment was very critical at that point as Luther King’s leadership was marred by civil disobedience instead of violence. He offered real proof that change was possible without using violence. Even though much violence existed at the time of the civil rights movement, he always stood for peace
- He also stressed upon the importance of giving recognition to the whites who were willing to protest for the same cause. He termed them as allies that are necessary to the success of the cause.

- ▶ He insists that the marches will not cease as long as blacks are turned away from hotels, subject to police brutality, segregation, and the denial of voting rights. After that comes the most famous section of his speech. This is the part that forms the title of the speech. Dr. King states his Dream for the nation of America.
- ▶ This reinforces the equality rights of the protestors. He claims that his Dream is for “the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.” the statement is an emphasis on the need for members of all races to cooperate and live in love. Key to his message within this speech as well as the civil rights movement.
- ▶ In the line: “I have a Dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.”
- ▶ In conclusion, he states that every human is God’s child, whether white, black, gentile, Jew, Catholic, or even protestant. He one day hopes they will unite in freedom.

