



IELTS READING/Writing LESSON 7-24/25-2019

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Section One Vocabulary

Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Column A	Column B
VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
1. Commemorate (Verb)	A. a cause for complaint, especially unfair treatment. Syn: injustice, unfairness
2. Eloquently (Adv)	B. be an expression of or give a tangible or visible form to (an idea, quality, or feeling). Syn: symbolize, express
3. Grievance (Noun)	C. prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority. Syn: persecution, abuse
4. Patriotism (Noun)	D. in a fluent or persuasive manner.
5. Embody (Verb)	E. to mark or celebrate (an event or person) by doing or producing something. Syn: celebrate, pay tribute to, pay homage
6. Embolden (Verb)	F. create (something) strong, enduring, or successful. Syn: Create, establish.
7. Forge (Verb)	G. devotion to and vigorous support for one's country. Syn: Nationalism
8. Oppression (Noun)	H. give (someone) the courage or confidence to do something. Syn: Encourage
9. Prevail (Verb)	I. prove more powerful or superior. SYN: win, succeed.

Section Two Reading

ARTICLE A

The Fourth Of July

Source

Independence Day in the United States is also known as the Fourth of July. It is a national holiday that commemorates the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This was the day the USA was born and became independent from Great Britain. The terms "Independence Day" and the "Fourth of July" are a well-known part of the USA's cultural language. People celebrate with national pride. There are fireworks, parades, sporting events and lots more. It is one of the biggest days on America's holiday calendar. Politicians make speeches celebrating America's history and traditions.

In particular, attention turns to Thomas Jefferson's speech that declared the United States of America as an independent nation. Independence Day is a red, white and blue affair. The whole of the country displays American flags and banners. There are many festivals that enact famous events from America's history. It is also a day when the nation gets outdoors.

Picnics and barbecues with family and friends are the most popular ways to celebrate. In the evening, there are thousands of fireworks displays across the country. One of the most popular is the Macy's department store show on New York's East River. This is televised nationwide by the NBC TV channel. Also in New York, you can witness the Hot Dog Eating Contest on Coney Island. Indeed, American food is of course a big part of the day and millions of hot dogs, burgers and pizzas are eaten.

Why Do We Celebrate Independence Day?

We celebrate the Declaration of Independence for two reasons. It represents an official severing of ties between the original 13 colonies and the rule of Great Britain. But it also represents the core of our beliefs, the very makeup of our identity as citizens of the U.S. Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, combined a rich history of ideas and eloquently presented them to the then King of Great Britain along with a list of grievances.



At certain times, the concept of what it means to be a citizen of the United States of America may seem unclear. While many citizens are very passionate about our country, there are others who cannot accept patriotism as a wholesale, no-strings-attached concept. For those who already deeply love the United States, and for those who are struggling with the idea, the Declaration of Independence can be a guidepost. It is an unassailable document that embodies what it means to be an American, and everything we hold dear.



Although written in a different time with different social norms and commonly accepted philosophies, the U.S. has made consistent strides to truly embody the words, “we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” This idea has emboldened us to forge our own paths as individuals and as a nation. At great risk have Americans stood up to many forms of tyranny and oppression, and however long it takes, liberty prevails. Although the times are always changing, there will never be a day when this document does not hold immense importance to the United States or its people.

Unfortunate irony: Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The fifth U.S. president, James Monroe, also died on July 4, but in 1831. Yes, that makes three of our 39 presidents who are deceased who died on the country’s Independence Day. What are the odds of that?

ARTICLE B

The Importance of Being Independent

Source

- Making our own choices and decisions is an important part of being independent. Sometimes we may make the wrong choices, but those are often the experiences in life which are the most valuable. The times when we learn the most, the situations that teach us a lot.
- Knowing one’s own mind and developing independent thought, which is expressed in a courteous, respectful way is an important skill. Being independent means sometimes agreeing with others and their opinions, and sometimes disagreeing. This approach can lead to interesting conversations, discussions and debates which encourage independent thought and add value to lively interactions.
- Standing on one’s own feet is important. Knowing that one can function well either in or out of a relationship is invaluable. Then if a potential new relationship comes along it will add to their quality of life rather than define who the person is. Some people are so fearful of being without a relationship that they stay in a bad one until a new person comes along. They never discover how capable they are as a person in their own right.
- Having one’s own money is often valued by independent people. They do not have to ask for an allowance and can pay their own way. They value not being beholden to others, and being able to do simple things like buying gifts without a second thought.
- Maintaining one’s own home is the ultimate in independent living. Some people choose to keep their own home even after they have committed themselves to a relationship. They may see it as an investment; part of their retirement plan, but it can also be regarded as an insurance policy in case their new relationship does not work out as planned.
- Some people are wary of relationships. They may have been single for a long time, or may have been hurt or let down by an important relationship in the past. They may want to keep hold of their independence, to not feel that they require a partner to be complete, to define who they are. These people may well be comfortable in own skin, either when they are on their own or with others. Sometimes considering another person, a special partner, can take time and require patience, as they have to learn to let down some of the barriers and protection that have served them well over time.
- Having one’s own job or career can be a simple yet important step. Even if it is not a great job it can be useful as it occupies ones time, gives a purpose and routine to life, provides challenges, gives some independence away from the home. When we work with people we have to consider others, we have to be responsible and do a good job, earn our wages, be loyal to other staff.
- Being independent can mean making our own mistakes. These are often valuable as we have to live with the consequences, put them right and learn from them for the future.
- Many people, especially young people, like to have their own style. They enjoy experimenting and finding what suits them best, how they want to present themselves to the world. Over time we develop our own style, taste, fashion, dress, music, thoughts, ideas. Our personal and unique combination of these factors serve to make us the independent person that we ultimately become. It is important to allow that to happen and then celebrate it.

