

US Independence Day

Intermediate level

Task 1: Warm-up

Comment on the sayings about freedom and independence. Which one do you agree with? Explain your choice.

Useful language:

In my eyes, ...

To my mind, ...

I have no objection...

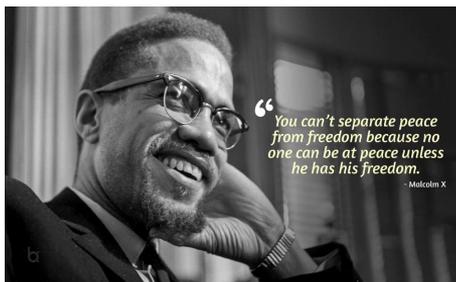
I share this view...

I hold the same opinion...

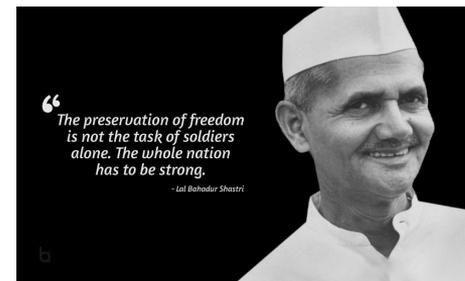
I totally agree...

I disagree...

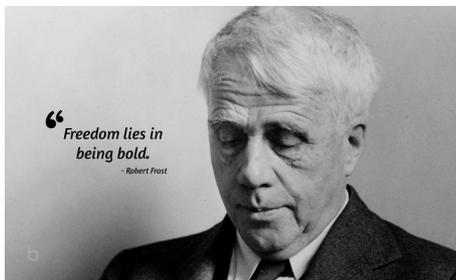
1.



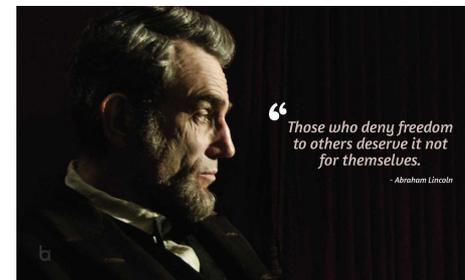
2.



3.



4.



Task 2: Lead-in

Discuss the questions.

1. What is freedom?
2. Do you have as much freedom as you want in your country?
3. Is everyone in your country equally free?
4. Can freedom damage a country?
5. Where in the world do you think is the greatest freedom and independence?
6. Do you have a special holiday in your country commemorating independence?



Task 3

Guess if these facts about US Independence Day are true or false. You will find out the right answers on the next slide.

1. The Independence Day was not actually declared on the 4th of July.
2. Americans eat about 50 million hot dogs on that day.
3. The declaration of Independence was written on a laptop.
4. Wearing clothes with US flag printed on them violates the U.S. Flag Code.
5. Fireworks date back as a tradition of Independence Day in 1997.



Task 4: Fun facts about US Independence Day

Read the facts about US Independence Day and check your guesses. Which fact surprised you the most? Why?

1. True. One of the greatest misconceptions of the 4th of July lies in the name and date. It is widely believed that America declared their independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. However, the official vote actually took place two days before and the “Declaration” was published in papers on July 4.
2. False. According to the National Sausage and Hot Dog Council (NHDSC), Americans are expected to eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4th holiday.
3. True. Not a modern laptop, but still. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a writing desk that could fit over one's lap. This device was referred to at the time as a "laptop."

Task 4

4. True. The U.S. Flag Code states that you are in violation if you sell or display any “article of merchandise . . . upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of [the flag... in order to] advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed.”

The Flag Code is not enforced, so don't worry - you won't get arrested by the Flag Police.

5. False. Fireworks date back as a tradition of Independence Day as early as the first anniversary in 1777. John Adams wrote in a letter to his wife, Abigail, that he wanted Independence Day to be celebrated with pomp, parade, shows, and "Illuminations." This original letter was written when Adams presumed that Independence Day would be celebrated on July 2.

Task 5: Watching a video

Watch the [video till 01:39.](#)



What is the most suitable title for it? Explain your choice.

- a) Americans are proud of their nation
- b) Americans appreciate their freedom
- c) The USA - a country of equality

Task 6: Watching a video

Watch the video till 01:39 again and fill in the gaps with the missing words: *constitution, embrace, declaration, send out, stand for, play host, end up.*

1. The actual vote for Independence was on July the second but America a) ____ at the fourth because that was the day the b) ____ was c) ____ to all the states to be read.
2. When I was younger I didn't appreciate it and now I d) ____ everything the Constitution e) ____ the freedom.
3. While Washington's f) ____ Avenue g) ____ to the beauty and innovation the US has produced people here reflect on the freedom they have learned to live for.

Task 7: New Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. constitution | a) To serve as a host for (someone or something). |
| 2. embrace | b) To finally be in a particular place or situation. |
| 3. declaration | c) To cause or order to be taken, directed, or transmitted to another place. |
| 4. send out | d) Law determining the fundamental political principles of a government. |
| 5. stand for | e) To take up the cause, ideology, practice, method, of someone and use it as one's own. |
| 6. play host | f) A formal public statement. |
| 7. end up | g) To express support for a particular idea or way of doing things. |

Task 8: Follow-up discussion

Discuss the questions. Use the new words where possible:

constitution, embrace, declaration, send out, stand for, play host, end up.

1. Do you agree with the quotation by Abraham Lincoln: “I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him”? Explain your answer.
2. When and how does your country celebrate the declaration of Independence? Do you take part in the events?
3. Can you imagine living anywhere else rather than your homeland? If so, where? If not, why?
4. Do you embrace everything that your Constitution stands for? Why/why not?
5. Are you patriotic? Do you know anyone who is? How do they show it?

Keys

Task 1

1. If you're free, you always have a choice, and you take responsibility for the choices you make. If you're responsible, you no longer get to play the victim and step up to the courageous, confusing, creative place where you do great work.
2. We feel soldiers should protect our nation. What are we going to do about protecting our nation? It is not just the soldiers' duty? We have to build a powerful nation and protect it.
3. When one is free, one has the choice of being bold. By being bold, one may maintain their freedom despite the attempts of others to apply restrictions. Thus, each of the two support and reinforce the other.
4. If you prevent someone from having freedom, then you shouldn't have freedom either.

Task 3

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False

Task 5

The most suitable title is b) Americans appreciate their freedom. Whatever Americans speak about they mention the importance of the freedom they have in their country.

Task 6

- a) ended up
- b) declaration
- c) sent out
- d) embrace
- e) stands for
- f) Constitution
- g) plays host

Task 7

1. D
2. E
3. F
4. C
5. G
6. A
7. B