

A Tribute to America

ESOL Lesson Plans

Introduction

Goal: Identify basic American concepts and values reflected in “A Tribute to America”.

The following materials are intended to be used with new speakers of English as a way to introduce both American concepts and values as well as learn to speak English.

To the Teacher- These materials can introduce basic American concepts and values to newcomers to the United States while reinforcing grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. Incorporate these lessons into civics or citizenship activities.

How to Teach these Lessons- Play the song, “A Tribute to America” several times to familiarize students with the rhythm and music. When you have played the song three or four times, let the students fill in the missing words as indicated by the blank lines. Each line indicates a missing word.

Beginners should be provided an alphabetized word bank with which to work.

High beginners

1. Distribute Part A of the song sheet. Allow student to listen to the song several times.
2. Call out the line numbers in the first part as the music progresses.
3. Allow the students to try and fill in the words using the word bank. Let them try at least three times.
4. Correct after the third attempt by allowing students to pair and compare answers. They can cross check each other. You may even wish to play the song to the mid point for them to check together.
5. After the group has paired and checked, do a larger group correction.
6. If all the blanks have been filled, listen to this section of the song again and encourage students to sing along with the first part.
7. If all the blanks have not been filled, allow the students to listen and try to complete the missing words.

A Tribute to America
High Beginners Dictation Sheet (Part-A)

1. Our tears may _____
2. And our hearts may be shattered,
3. but deep down in our _____
4. We are _____,
5. We are _____,
6. We are _____,
7. We have freedom in our _____,
8. We will fight for our _____,
9. We will stand up for the brotherhood of _____
10. America, America, _____
11. America you're grand.
12. We have the _____
13. We have the _____
14. No terrorist could ever withstand
15. We will not _____.
16. We will not cower.
17. We will stand up for the rights of our _____
18. We're America, _____
19. Strong, proud, brave, _____
20. We're America, _____
21. Strong, proud, _____, _____

22. America red, white and _____

23. America This Song we sing for _____

Vocabulary development

High Beginner

Key words

Part A

- a. tear(s)
- b. heart(s)
- c. soul(s)
- d. right(s)

Part B

- e. freedom
- f. hide
- g. motherland

1. Put key words from Part A on 3 by 5 cards, one word to a card. Make enough sets for the whole class.
2. Pass out the cards.
3. Have students pair and discuss what they think their word means. Allow them to speak in their native languages.
4. Instruct the group to draw a picture on the blank side of each card as to what they think the word means.
5. Allow all the pairs who had the same word to group and discuss their meanings and share their pictures.
6. Bring everyone back together to discuss each of the words. Have one volunteer from each of the larger group explain the meaning his or her group arrived at.
7. Confirm the correct meanings and correct any errors.
8. Listen to the first part of the song again. Allow the learners to sing along.
9. Repeat this activity with the second half of the song.
10. Make enough cards with the words from Part B vocabulary list. Add words from the song of your own or words from the song of the students choice.

Explain American Flag

Extension Activities

1. Ask students to share the meanings of the colors in their 'native land' respective Flags.
2. Have students pair and discuss what they think the colors of the American flag mean. Share with the class

A Tribute to America
High Beginners
Part-B

24. In times of _____
25. Compassion fills our _____
26. In times of dismay we are _____
27. We're a land of _____
28. A land of _____
29. And no one can take this away
30. We're America ...America ... _____
31. America you're _____
32. No one can destroy us through thick or thin
33. We're a nation that was built to _____
34. No terrorist plight can destroy our _____
35. Or the strength of this _____
36. We're America ... America... _____
37. America you're _____
38. God extended his _____
39. And has given us _____
40. For we will stand tall and _____
41. We're a land of _____
42. A land of _____
43. A land like no other land
44. We're America... _____

45. Strong, proud, brave _____
46. We're America _____
47. Strong, proud, _____
48. America, America you're _____
49. America _____
50. America

A Tribute to America
High Beginners
*Word Bank **
Part A

1. America
2. blue
3. bold
4. fall
5. hide
6. land
7. man
8. power
9. proud
10. rights
11. Souls
12. strength
13. strong
14. You

*The teacher may wish to pronounce each word and have students repeat the pronunciation before they attempt to fill in the blank.

A Tribute to America
Intermediate ESOL

Activities

1. Allow students to listen to the song half way and follow along on their sheets. Play “A Tribute to America” two or three times.
2. Have students listen two or three times more as they try to fill in the blanks. (Word Bank optional)
3. After the third or fourth time through, allow students to pair and compare answers.
4. Play the song for partners to discuss their answers.
5. Bring the class together to share responses.
6. Confirm answers by listening together again.
7. Encourage singing along as answers are verified.

Homework Assignment – Have students use a bilingual dictionary to look up words they don't know. Share in the next class what was learned about the meaning of the words.

A Tribute to America
ESOL Lesson
Intermediate Activities

1. Play the song again on Day 2 and have students share the new words learned.
2. Check student understanding of each of the following words:
 - a. shattered
 - b. terrorist
 - c. compassion
 - d. nation
 - e. extended
 - f. rights
3. Form trios of students to discuss the concept of “freedom”. What does it mean in America? How is it manifested?

Extension: Compare and contrast concepts of freedom in other countries.

4. Repeat Activity # 3 using the Concept of “brotherhood” and/or “rights”.
5. Grammar focus- **may**
Have students pair and ask each other:
 - a. “What freedoms may you practice in your country?”
 - b. “I may practice _____”
 - c. What freedoms may you not practice?
 - b. “I may not practice _____ “

Repeat substituting “rights” for “freedoms”

6.
 - a. Using a picture or the American flag, review the meaning of the thirtieth stripes and the stars in the American flag.
 - b. Put the Pledge of Allegiance on the board.

“I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, invisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
 - c. Discuss word meanings and phrases.

A Tribute to America
Intermediate Dictation Sheet (Part-A)

1. Our tears _____
2. And our hearts _____ be shattered,
3. but deep _____ in our _____
4. We are _____,
5. We are _____,
6. We are _____,
7. We have _____ in our _____,
8. We will _____ for our _____,
9. We will _____ for the brotherhood of _____
10. America, America, _____
11. America you're _____.
12. We have the _____
13. We have the _____
14. No terrorist could ever _____
15. We will not _____.
16. We will not _____.
17. We will _____ for the _____ of our _____
18. We're America, _____
19. Strong, _____, brave, _____
20. We're America, _____
21. Strong, _____,
22. America _____, _____ and _____
23. America This _____ we sing for _____

A Tribute to America
Intermediate
Part-B

24. In times of _____
25. Compassion _____ our _____
26. In _____ of _____ we are _____
27. We're a _____ of _____
28. A land of _____
29. And _____ take this away
30. We're America ...America ... _____
31. America you're _____
32. No one _____ thick or thin
33. We're a _____ that was _____ to _____
34. No _____ can _____ our _____
35. Or the _____ of this _____
36. We're America ... America... _____
37. America you're _____
38. God _____ his _____
39. And _____ us _____
40. For we will _____ tall and _____
41. We're a land of _____
42. A land of _____
43. A _____ like _____ land
44. We're America... _____
45. Strong, _____, _____

46. We're America _____
47. Strong, proud, _____
48. America, America you're _____
49. America _____
50. America

A Tribute to America
High Beginners
*Word Bank **
Part B

1. America
2. bold
3. brave
4. faith
5. freedom
6. grand
7. hand
8. hearts
9. motherland
10. need
11. peace
12. proud
13. sight
14. strong
15. survive

* The teacher may wish to pronounce each word and have the students repeat the pronunciation before they attempt to fill in the blanks.

Extension Activities

Have students work in pairs with a bilingual dictionary to determine the meaning of the words in the word blank.

A Tribute to America
Advanced Level

At the advanced level students should be encouraged expand their critical thinking skills and dialogue freely. Advanced ESOL students should be able to listen to the song one or two times and fill in the blanks after the third or fourth time. Allow students to pair and share answers. Use whole group discussion to finish confirming what the missing words are.

Key Words

terrorist	compassion
shattered	dismay
brotherhood	thick or thin
motherland	plight
strength	

1. Put key words on board and pronounce
2. Allow students to pair and discuss meanings
3. Have entire groups discuss meanings
4. Have students make personal vocabulary cards to remember meanings
5. Play song and do dictation activity. Correct in pairs then whole group.
6. Have the class form groups of three to five. Provide them with one of the following topics or one of your choice to discuss in their groups.
 - a. How has the United States and its citizens manifested compassion in the past and present? How has it not?
 - b. What are strengths of your country? Identify strengths of the United States. Compare and Contrast each country's strengths.
 - c. Identify the weaknesses in your country. Why are they weaknesses? What are weaknesses of the United States? Why are they weaknesses?
7. Have students work in groups by ethnicity to translate their respective national anthems. Post the translations and discuss the importance of anthems and the feelings they engender.

A Tribute to America
Advanced Dictation Sheet (Part-A)

1. Our _____
2. And _____,
3. but _____
4. We _____,
5. We are _____,
6. We _____,
7. We _____,
8. We _____,
9. We _____
10. America, _____,
11. America _____.
12. We _____
13. We _____
14. No _____
15. We _____.
16. We _____.
17. We _____
18. We're _____,
19. Strong, _____,
20. We're _____,
21. Strong, _____,
22. America _____,

23. America _____

A Tribute to America
Advanced Part-B

- 24. In _____
- 25. Compassion _____
- 26. In _____
- 27. We're _____
- 28. A _____
- 29. And _____
- 30. We're _____ ... _____ ... _____
- 31. America _____
- 32. No _____
- 33. We're _____
- 34. No _____
- 35. Or _____
- 36. We're _____ ... _____ ... _____
- 37. America _____
- 38. God _____
- 39. And _____
- 40. For _____
- 41. We're _____
- 42. A _____
- 43. A _____
- 44. We're _____ ... _____
- 45. Strong, _____, _____

46. We're _____

47. Strong, _____, _____

48. America, _____

49. America _____

50. America