

Name: _____

Class: _____

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Changing America

By Barbara Radner

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) was a Baptist minister and a leader of the African American Civil Rights Movement. This article shares key details about Dr. King's life and accomplishments, including his belief in equality and non-violence. As you read, take notes on the problems that African Americans faced during the 1950s and 60s, and the strategies that Dr. King used to create social change.

- [1] Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a great leader. He inspired many people. He brought about changes that are important to everyone in the United States. In fact, he is known around the world. He was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. That is a prize given to a person who is important to the world. It is a peace prize. He wanted people to change things peacefully. He thought that violence only led to more problems.

Dr. King used a way of changing things called non-violent protest. He saw that people were not treated fairly. He protested for civil rights. When he led marches, people were angry. But he was determined. Even though people shouted at him, he kept marching.

People who had been afraid to protest before were encouraged. They joined him. He was able to give them confidence. Together they would overcome. Soon thousands of people were with him. He was changing America.

He organized boycotts. A boycott means that people do not buy something or shop at a store or use a service. The boycott he led was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Before that boycott in 1955, African Americans could not ride in the front of buses. They had to sit or stand in the back even if there were seats in the front. Only whites could have those front seats. It took months, but they won. They got the right to sit anywhere in the bus.

- [5] Dr. King influenced many people. He reached them with his books and speeches. He gave a very inspiring speech in Washington, D.C. People call it his "I Have a Dream" speech. In it he told about what he had seen, the changes that had happened, and what would happen in the



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future.

Today the United States celebrates his life with a special holiday every year. On that day, people remember what he accomplished. They think about how he has made a difference to everyone in America.

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies a central idea of this text?
 - A. Americans celebrate Dr. King because he led people to create equality.
 - B. Dr. King is important because he won many awards.
 - C. All social change is made through non-violent protests like boycotts.
 - D. In his "I Have a Dream Speech" Dr. King predicted the future.

2. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "He was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "He thought that violence only led to more problems." (Paragraph 1)
 - C. "They got the right to sit anywhere in the bus." (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "In it he told about what he had seen, the changes that had happened, and what would happen in the future." (Paragraph 5)

3. Which of the following statements best summarizes the way Dr. King created change?
 - A. Dr. King created change through his strong leadership, moving speeches, and his support of continued non-violent protest, such as boycotts and marching.
 - B. Dr. King created change mainly by writing to important politicians and appealing directly to lawmakers about the state of inequality in America.
 - C. Dr. King created change through his strong leadership and his call for protest, organizing marches that would spin out of control into riots.
 - D. Dr. King created change through protests such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in which protesters took over the buses so white people could not use them.

4. Which of the following best describes how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy is remembered in America today?
 - A. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered namely as the youngest person to win a Nobel Peace Prize.
 - B. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered through a national holiday and little else in terms of celebration.
 - C. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. legacy serves as an inspiration for change, though only in the African American community.
 - D. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has become a figure of peace and equality, not just in America but all over the world.

5. "When he led marches, people were angry... Even though people shouted at him, he kept marching." What does this quote from paragraph 2 reveal about Dr. King's character or point of view, especially as a leader?

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Word Study

Prefixes *il-*, *in-*, *im-*, and *ir-*

The prefixes *il-*, *in-*, *im-*, and *ir-* mean “not.” So if you come across one of these prefixes and know the meaning of the base word it is attached to, you can figure out what the word means.

For example, if you know that the word *polite* means “showing respect for other people,” and the prefix *im-* means “not,” you can conclude that the word *impolite* means “*not* showing respect for other people.”

My TURN Draw a line to match the prefix in the left column with the correct base word in the center column. Then write the new word that you have created in the right column. Use what you know about prefixes to decode, or read, the new words.

il-	movable	_____
in-	responsible	_____
im-	legible	_____
ir-	capable	_____

My TURN Use texts that you read this week or a dictionary to write one additional word using each of the prefixes (*il-*, *in-*, *im-*, and *ir-*).

1. il- _____

3. im- _____

2. in- _____

4. ir- _____

High-Frequency Words

High-frequency words are words that you see over and over again in texts.

TURN and TALK With a partner, read these high-frequency words aloud. Then take turns using each word in a sentence: *record*, *value*, *rhythm*, *science*, *shoulder*, *company*.

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Spelling

Spell Words with Prefixes *il-*, *in-*, *im-*, *ir-*

Most of the time, adding a prefix does not change the way the base word is spelled. Prefixes do change the meaning of the base words to which they are added. In this case, the prefixes *il-*, *in-*, *im-*, and *ir-* all mean “not.”

SPELLING WORDS

logical
inoffensive
irrational
probable
legal

adequate
offensive
irreplaceable
inaccurate
illogical

accurate
impassable
inadequate
mobile
improbable

rational
illegal
passable
replaceable
immobile

My TURN Complete the following sentences by adding the correct prefix (*il-*, *in-*, *im-*, or *ir-*) to the base word shown in parentheses. Spell correctly.

1. Winning the lottery is (**probable**) _____ .
2. Even after combining their savings, Jordan and Mika had an (**adequate**)
_____ amount of money to buy the video game.
3. Having been in the family for generations, the rare and delicate vase was
(**replaceable**) _____ .

My TURN Follow the prompts below to practice spelling words with prefixes.

1. Use the word *immobile* in a sentence about trying to move something.

2. Use the word *irreplaceable* in a sentence about a treasured item or an antique.
