

Churchill's Speech: We Shall Fight on the Beaches

Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered a speech to the House of Commons on June 4, 1940. Churchill explained that the British effort in World War II was not going well and that a German invasion of Britain was possible. A gifted orator, Churchill knew he must convince the British people that victory would come someday. When Churchill gave his speech, the U.S. had not yet entered World War II. He references his hope that "the New World," meaning the U.S., would join the war. Below is the end of his speech.

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone.

At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of His Majesty's Government - every man of them. That is the will of Parliament and the nation.

The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength.

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.

Why does Churchill repeat the phrase "we shall fight" over and over? How does it support the main purpose of this speech?

Consonants: Single or Double?

Many English words use double consonants. They are there to signal the sound the preceding vowel should have. A good example of this is the word *dinner*. The double *n* signals that the *i* should have a short sound. If the extra *n* is left out, the word is *diner*. The *i* becomes long because of the *e* after the single *n*.

There are also times when a writer may add a double consonant when none is needed. Look carefully at the words in the word bank so you can tell those that need a double consonant and those that don't.

Word Bank

accommodate	parallel
commit	possession
exaggerate	succeed
forest	summary
immediate	tomorrow

Part I

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the word bank. Use the context of the sentence to determine which word should be used.

- The group will meet _____ rather than today because of a schedule conflict.
- The nurse in the emergency room determined who needed _____ help.
- Our homework was to write a brief _____ of the book.
- It was dark and cool in the _____.
- A square has two sets of _____ sides.
- The player will _____ a foul if she touches the ball with her hands.
- You can _____ in school if you study hard.
- They will _____ those who need extra time.

Part II

Write a paragraph using at least four words from the word bank.

Words Ending in -ant, -ent, -ence, -ance, -ary, and -ery

Many writers confuse -ent and -ant, -ence and -ance, and -ery and -ary. It's understandable; it's merely a difference in an *e* and an *a*. Look closely at each word to determine which ending to use.

Word Bank

appearance	independence
attendance	parents
cemetery	secretary
existence	sentence
experience	sergeant

Part I

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the word bank. Use the context of the sentence to determine which word should be used.

1. The funeral procession slowly entered the _____.
2. The hikers counted on the _____ of their guide to keep them safe from bears.
3. Gina asked her _____ for a larger allowance.
4. The teacher took _____ every day as class started.
5. The army _____ lead the soldiers through the barbed wire.
6. The American colonies declared _____ in 1776.
7. Harvey was elected _____ of the student council.
8. Every _____ must have a subject and predicate.

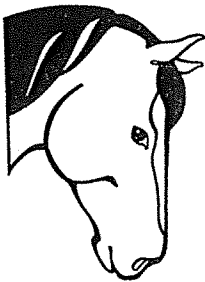
Part II

Write a paragraph using at least four words from the word bank.

Hidden Animals

The name of an animal is hidden in each sentence below. The letters are all in the correct order, but are found in two or more words. Underline the name of each animal you find. Use the list of words in the box at the bottom of the page if you need help finding an animal. The first one has been done for you.

1. Either Seth or Selma will pick you up for practice this afternoon. (horse)
2. If you slam books on a table while in the library, you'll disturb everyone.
3. Hey, Leo, pardon the mess while the workers remodel your office.
4. We plan to go at 4:00 because we want to avoid the traffic.
5. The lab at the hospital just got money for six new microscopes.
6. Each awkward step the toddler took on its wobbly legs seemed like such an effort.
7. To be artistic, a person needs to have an eye for color and style.
8. The circus clown used a hoop and a horn in his act under the big top.
9. Did you notice that Jack always wears his favorite shirt on Monday?
10. They came late to the game because they got tied up in traffic.
11. Be a very good friend and let me borrow the notes you took in science class.
12. There are many bad germs that can cause flu-like symptoms.
13. Divers often find many lost riches when they explore sunken ships.
14. I can only wait a second or two for your answer before I have to call on someone else.
15. The teacher told us to add the four numbers to get the sum.



Name of Animals Hidden in the Sentences				
badger	beaver	goat	jackal	ostrich
bat	camel	hawk	lamb	panda
bear	condor	horse	leopard	toad

