

Famous Presidential Speeches

John F. Kennedy - *The Decision to go the Moon* 1961

(President of USA in 1960s)

We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organise and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to **postpone**, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.



postpone - agree to do later

Barack Obama - *Victory speech* 2008

(President of USA 2009-2017)

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term, but America - I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you - we as a people will get there.

There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president, and we know that government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree.



And above all, I will ask you to join in the work of remaking this nation the only way it's been done in America for 221 years - block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand.

Thinking about Famous Presidential Speeches

Read the speeches carefully.
Answer the questions below in your book.

- * short answer of one or two words
- ** medium answer - explain in a sentence or two
- *** longer answer - explain in a few sentences/short paragraph



John F. Kennedy

1. What is Kennedy explaining? *
2. Why do you think he repeats the phrase "We choose to go to the moon"? *
3. *...not because they are easy, but because they are hard...*
Does this reason surprise you? Why do you think he uses contrasts such as *easy* and *hard* in his speech? **

Barack Obama

4. Who is Obama talking to? *
5. The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep.
Is he really talking about an actual road?
What is he describing with this image? **
6. *...block by block, brick by brick...*
What affect does this alliteration (repeating the beginning sound) have and why does he use it? **

Both

7. *...we as a people **will** get there...I will listen to you...*
Both speakers say things *will* happen rather than *might* or *may* happen. Why do they use this modal verb in their speech? **
8. Which speech do you think is most persuasive? Explain why giving examples. ***

GRAMMAR CHALLENGE:

Highlight all of the modal verbs.