



Level: Upper intermediate
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Black History Month



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1) *Discuss these quotes with a partner. What do you think the message of each quote is? What is your opinion about the quote, do you agree or disagree?*

- “The time is always right to do what is right” (Martin Luther King, Jr.).
- “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men” (Frederick Douglass).
- “Racism isn’t born, folks, it’s taught. I have a two-year old son. Do you know what he hates? Naps! End of list” (Denis Leary).

2) *Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right:*

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. abolished | a) a situation which is unfair |
| 2. compensating | b) is thought of as/is believed to be |
| 3. traffic signal | c) the decision of a court that someone is not guilty |
| 4. injustice | d) officially put an end to an activity |
| 5. justice | e) in answer to |
| 6. is considered | f) pulled down |
| 7. in response to | g) repaying |
| 8. toppled | h) a situation which is fair |
| 9. acquittal | i) a set of red, yellow, and green lights that control the movement of cars and other vehicles |

3) Black History Month Quiz:

In pairs, decide whether the statements below are true or false.

When you have finished, check your answers:

1. The United Kingdom **abolished** slavery in 1833.
2. The United Kingdom spent 20 million pounds on **compensating** slaves after they **abolished** slavery.
3. Garrett Morgan invented the **traffic signal** in 1923.
4. "**Injustice** anywhere is a threat to **justice** everywhere" is a quote from James Baldwin.
5. The first African American to travel to space was Bernard A. Harris Jr. in 1995.
6. In 1955, police arrested Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man in Alabama.
7. Missy Elliot was the first African American woman to win five Grammy Awards in one year.
8. In 1953, the song "Hound Dog" was released by "Big Mama Thornton" and made it to number one in the R&B charts.
9. K'Naan **is considered** the creator of the music genre "Afrobeat".
10. Nelson Mandela was the first African American Nobel Peace Prize winner.
11. Between 15 and 26 million people participated in the Black Lives Matter protests in the United States in 2020.
12. The Black Lives Matter movement was founded in 2014 **in response to** the killing of Michael Brown.
13. A statue of Edward Colston was **toppled** by Black Lives Matter protestors in the city of Brighton in the UK in 2020.
14. Michael Jackson's 1982 album "Thriller" is the best selling album of all time.

4) Grammar – the passive voice:

Which of the quiz questions are written using the passive voice?

5) *Change these statements to the past simple passive. The first one has been done for you. When you have finished, check your answers:*

1. The United Kingdom abolished slavery in 1833.
Slavery was abolished in the United Kingdom in 1833.
2. The United Kingdom spent 20 million pounds on compensating slave owners after they abolished slavery.
3. Garrett Morgan invented the traffic signal in 1923.
4. In 1955, police arrested Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man in Alabama.
5. Lauren Hill won a Grammy for “Album Of The Year” in 1998.
6. Nelson Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
7. Michael Jackson premiered his music video for “Thriller” in December 1983.

Answers:

2) 1. d, 2. g, 3. i, 4. a, 5. h, 6. b, 7. e, 8. f, 9. c

3)

1. True.
2. False, they **compensated** the *slave owners*.
3. True.
4. False, it was Martin Luther King, Jr. who said it.
5. False, he was the first African American to *walk* in space. The first African American to *travel* to space was Guion Bluford in 1983.
6. True.
7. False, it was Lauren Hill.
8. True. That was a whole three years before Elvis Presley released his version in 1956.
9. False, it is Fela Kuti.
10. False, it was Ralph Bunche.
11. True.
12. False. It was founded in July 2013, after the **acquittal** of George Zimmerman in the shooting of Trayvon Martin in February 2012.
13. False, it was in Bristol.
14. True.

4) Questions 8, 9, 12 and 13 are written using the passive voice.

5)

1. Slavery was abolished in the United Kingdom in 1833.
2. Twenty million pounds were spent by the United Kingdom on compensating slave owners after they abolished slavery.
3. The traffic signal was invented by Garrett Morgan in 1923.
4. In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man in Alabama.
5. The Grammy for "Album of the Year" was won by Lauren Hill in 1998.
6. The Nobel Peace Prize was won by Nelson Mandela in 1993.
7. Michael Jackson's music video for "Thriller" was premiered in 1983.