Identifying Sentence Stress
in
Malala Yousafzai’s 2014 Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech

Part A: Building Background Knowledge. In pairs or groups, use your cell phones, tablets or computers to find out who Malala Yousafzai is. After a few minutes, share what you learn with your classmates.

Part B: Getting the Gist. Watch the first three minutes of Malala Yousafzai’s speech (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOqIotJrFVM) and answer the questions below.

1. Who does Malala thank? Circle the answers.
   a. everyone who supports her  c. her father  e. her president
   b. her friends  d. her mother  f. her teacher

2. Why is Malala proud? Circle the answer.
   a. She is the first Pakistani to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize
   b. She is the youngest person ever to receive a Nobel Prize.
   c. both A and B

Part C: Identifying Sentence Stress. First, review the rules for sentence stress using the American English Pronunciation Card or another resource. Next, read the transcript below and try to predict the stressed words. Finally, listen to the first three minutes of Malala’s speech again and underline the stressed words.

Your Majesties, Your royal highnesses, distinguished members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, dear sisters and brothers,

Today is a day of great happiness for me. I am humbled that the Nobel Committee has selected me for this precious award.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and love. Thank you for the letters and cards that I still receive from all around the world. Your kind and encouraging words strengthens and inspires me.

I would like to thank my parents for their unconditional love. Thank you to my father for not clipping my wings and for letting me fly. Thank you to my mother for inspiring me to be patient and to always speak the truth- which we strongly believe is the true message of Islam. And also thank you to all my wonderful teachers, who inspired me to believe in myself and be brave.

I am proud, well, in fact, I am very proud to be the first Pashtun, the first Pakistani, and the youngest person to receive this award. Along with that, along with that, I am pretty certain that I am also the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize who still fights with her younger brothers. I want there to be peace everywhere, but my brothers and I are still working on that.
Answer Key

Part B.

a, c, d, f

Part C.

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