

## JFK's Inaugural Address

1. **forebears** *n.* ancestor, forefather.
2. **prescribed** *vt.* to lay down as a guide, direction, or rule of action.
3. **heirs** *n.* a person who is entitled to inherit the estate of another.
4. **tempered** *adj.* 1. made hard or flexible, especially by heat. 2. adjusted by adding a counterbalancing element.
5. **heritage** *n.* 1. practices that are handed down from the past by tradition. 2. something possessed as a result of one's situation or birth.
6. **committed** *vt.* 1. to carry into action deliberately. 2. to pledge or assign to some particular course or use.
7. **assure** *vt.* 1. to make safe. 2. to make sure or certain. 3. to make certain the coming or attainment of.
8. **pledge** *vt.* to promise the performance of.
9. **asunder** *adv.* 1. into parts. 2. apart from each other in position.
10. **tyranny** *n.* 1. oppressive power. 2. a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler
11. **alliance** *n.* 1. a bond or connection between families, states, parties, or individuals. 2. an association to further the common interests of the members.
12. **aggression** *n.* 1. a forceful action or procedure (as an unprovoked attack) especially when intended to dominate or master. 2. the practice of making attacks or encroachments. 3. hostile, injurious, or destructive behavior or outlook, especially when caused by frustration.
13. **subversion** *n.* a systematic attempt to overthrow or undermine a government or political system by persons working secretly from within.
14. **sovereign** *adj.* 1. possessed of supreme power. 2. enjoying autonomy or self-rule.
15. **invective** *n.* 1. vehement or violent denunciation, censure, or reproach. 2. an angry accusation. 3. an insulting or abusive word or expression.
16. **adversary** *n.* one that contends with, opposes, or resists; enemy.
17. **civility** *n.* 1. civilized conduct, courtesy, politeness. 2. a polite act or expression.
18. **negotiate** *vi.* to confer with another so as to arrive at the settlement of some matter.
19. **belaboring** *vt.* 1. to attack verbally. 2. to explain or insist on excessively.
20. **formulate** *vt.* 1. to devise or develop. 2. to express in precise form.
21. **invoke** *vt.* 1. to put into effect or operation 2. to petition for help or support.
22. **eradicate** *vt.* to do away with as completely as if by pulling up by the roots.
23. **commerce** *n.* 1. social intercourse : interchange of ideas, or sentiments. 2. the exchange or buying and selling of commodities.
24. **oppressed** *n.* those who are burdened psychologically or mentally.
25. **beachhead** *n.* an area on a hostile shore occupied to secure further landing of troops and supplies.
26. **endeavor** *n.* 1. serious determined effort. 2. activity directed toward a goal.
27. **preserved** *adj.* 1. kept safe from injury, harm, or destruction. 2. kept alive, intact, or free from decay.

28. **summons** *vt.* 1. to call upon to do something specified. 2. to call for the presence of, as by command or signal. 3. to call into action; rouse; call forth.
29. **tribulation** *n.* 1. grievous trouble; severe trial or suffering. 2. an instance of this; an affliction, trouble, etc.
30. **forge** *v.* to form or make, esp. by concentrated effort.
31. **shrink** *v.* to draw back, as in retreat or avoidance.

### MLK's "I Have a Dream"

1. **emancipation** *n.* the act or process of setting free from the power of another, from slavery, subjection, dependence, or controlling influence; also, the state of being thus set free; liberation.
2. **proclamation** *n.* something that is proclaimed; a public and official announcement.
3. **momentous** *adj.* of great or far-reaching importance or consequence.
4. **decree** *n.* 1. a formal and authoritative order, esp. one having the force of law 2. a judicial decision or order.
5. **seared** *vt.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of with (or as if with) a hot instrument.
6. **withering** *adj.* 1. drying up or shriveling from (or as if from) loss of moisture 2. losing freshness; drooping.
7. **manacles** *n.* shackles for the hand; handcuffs; restraints.
8. **segregation** *n.* the policy or practice of separating people of different races, classes, or ethnic groups, as in schools, housing, and public facilities, especially as a form of discrimination.
9. **languishing** *vi.* 1. to be or become weak or feeble; droop; fade. 2. to lose vigor and vitality. 3. to undergo neglect or experience prolonged inactivity; suffer hardship and distress. 4. to be subjected to delay or disregard; be ignored.
10. **exile** *n.* 1. a person banished from his or her native land. 2. anyone separated from his or her country or home voluntarily or by force of circumstances.
11. **promissory** *adj.* 1. containing or implying a promise 2. **promissory note** *n.* a written promise to pay a specified sum of money to a designated person at a fixed time or on demand.
12. **heir** *n.* see JFK list.
13. **unalienable** *adj.* not to be separated, given away, or taken away; inalienable.
14. **defaulted** *vi.* to fail to do what is required.
15. **obligation** *n.* 1. a binding promise, contract, sense of duty, etc. 2. the act of binding or obliging oneself by a promise, contract, etc. 3. a debt of gratitude.
16. **insufficient** *adj.* 1. not sufficient; lacking in what is necessary or required 2. deficient in force, quality, or amount; inadequate.
17. **hallowed** *adj.* regarded as holy; venerated; sacred.
18. **desolate** *adj.* 1. barren or laid waste; devastated. 2. deserted; uninhabited. 3. solitary; lonely. 4. having the feeling of being abandoned by friends or by hope; forlorn. 5. dreary; dismal; gloomy.
19. **sweltering** *adj.* 1. suffering oppressive heat. 2. characterized by oppressive heat; sultry.
20. **tranquility** *n.* quality or state of being tranquil; calmness; peacefulness; quiet; serenity.
21. **threshold** *n.* 1. the entrance to a house or building. 2. any place or point of entering or beginning.
22. **degenerate** *vi.* 1. to fall below a normal or desirable level in physical, mental, or moral qualities; deteriorate. 2. to diminish in quality, esp. from a former state of coherence, balance, integrity, etc.
23. **engulfed** *vt.* 1. to swallow up in or as in a gulf; submerge. 2. to plunge or immerse, as into a gulf.

24. **evidenced** *vt.* 1. to make evident or clear; show clearly; manifest. 2. to support by evidence.
25. **inextricably** *adj.* 1. incapable of being disentangled, undone, loosed, or solved.
26. **pledge** *vt.* see JFK list.
27. **ghetto** *n.* a section of a city, esp. a thickly populated slum area, inhabited predominantly by members of an ethnic or other minority group, often as a result of social or economic restrictions, pressures, or hardships.
28. **tribulations** *n.* see JFK list.
29. **quest** *n.* a search or pursuit made in order to find or obtain something.
30. **persecution** *n.* a program or campaign to exterminate, drive away, or subjugate a people because of their religion, race, or beliefs.
31. **redemptive** *adj.* 1. serving to redeem 2. of or pertaining to redemption or salvation.
32. **wallow** *vi.* 1. to roll about or lie in water, snow, mud, dust, or the like. 2. to live self-indulgently; luxuriate; revel. 3. to flounder about; move along or proceed clumsily or with difficulty.
33. **creed** *n.* 1. any system, doctrine, or formula of religious belief or of opinion.
34. **oppression** *n.* 1. the exercise of power in a burdensome, cruel, or unjust manner. 2. an act or instance of oppressing 3. the feeling of being heavily burdened, mentally or physically.
35. **oasis** *n.* 1. a small fertile or green area in a desert, usually having a spring or well. 2. something serving as a refuge, relief, or pleasant change from what is usual, annoying, difficult, etc
36. **nullification** *n.* the act of nullifying; making null and void; counteracting or overriding the effect or force of something.
37. **exalted** *adj.* 1. raised or elevated, as in rank or character; of high station. 2. noble; lofty.
38. **hew** *vt.* 1. to strike forcibly with an ax, sword, or other cutting instrument; chop; hack. 2. to make, shape, smooth, etc., with cutting blows. 3. to sever (a part) from a whole by means of cutting blows.
39. **transform** *vt.* 1. to change in form, appearance, or structure; metamorphose. 2. to change in condition, nature, or character; convert.
40. **jangling** *adj.* producing discordant sounds.
41. **discords** *n.* 1. lack of agreement among persons, groups, or things; tension or strife resulting from a lack of agreement; dissension. 2. a confused or harsh sound or mingling of sounds.
42. **prodigious** *adj.* 1. extraordinary in size, amount, extent, degree, force, etc. 2. wonderful or marvelous.