

## The Statue of Liberty: oral comprehension

Listen and complete:

Toutes les parties manquantes à compléter sont des formes passives au prétérit ou au présent.

Retrouvez les à l'écoute. Souvenez vous des règles de doublement de consonne comme dans big --> bigger. Par ex, to ship (transporter par bateau) => was shi**pp**ed (fin de mot en cons.+ voyelle + cons.)

verbes réguliers : **model** **dedicate** **announce** **construct** **present** **complete** **display**

verbes irréguliers : **build** **make** **put** (cherchez leur participe passé avant de commencer !)

The Statue of Liberty is a large statue that stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The statue was a gift from the people of France and **was dedicated** on October 28, 1886. It has become one of the most iconic symbols of the United States of America. The official name of the statue is "Liberty Enlightening the World", but she also goes by other names including "Lady Liberty" and the "Mother of Exiles."

### What does she represent?

The statue represents the freedom and liberty of the United States democracy. The figure **is modeled** after a Roman goddess named Libertas. The torch she holds high represents the enlightenment of the world. There are also broken chains at her feet that symbolize the United State breaking free from tyranny. She holds a tablet in her left hand that represents the law and has July 4, 1776 inscribed on it in Roman numerals.

### How tall is she?

The height of the statue from the base to the tip of the torch is 151 feet 1 inch (46 meters). If you include the pedestal and the foundation, she is 305 feet 1 inch tall (93 meters). This is about the height of a 30 story building.

Some other interesting measurements for the statue include her head (17 feet 3 inches tall), her nose (4 feet 6 inches long), her right arm (42 feet long), and her index finger (8 feet long).

### When was she built?

The project to build the Statue of Liberty **was announced** in France in 1875. The arm and torch **were constructed** first and **were displayed** at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. The head **was completed** next and shown at the 1878 Paris World's Fair. The rest of the statue **was built** in sections over several years.

In 1885, the sections of the statue **were shipped** to the United States. The assembly of the statue began in April of 1886. First the iron frame **was built** and then the copper pieces **were put** over the top. The statue **was** finally **completed** and **dedicated** on October 28, 1886.

### Who designed the Statue of Liberty?

The idea for the statue **was** first **presented** by French anti-slavery activist Edouard de Laboulaye to the French sculptor Frederic Bartholdi. Bartholdi then took the idea and ran with it. He wanted to design a giant statue. He designed the Statue of Liberty, helped to raise funding for the project, and picked the site in New York Harbor.

### Who built the Statue of Liberty?

The internal construction **was built** by civil engineer Gustave Eiffel (who would later build the Eiffel Tower). He came up with the unique idea to use an iron grid structure inside the statue for support. This would give the statue strength and reduce the stress on the outer copper skin at the same time.

## Visiting the Statue

Today, the Statue of Liberty is part of the U.S National Park Service. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. Around 4 million people visit the monument each year. It is free to visit, but there is a cost to take the ferry to the island. If you want to climb to the top, be sure to get your tickets early as only 240 people each day are allowed to climb to the crown.

## Interesting Facts About the Statue of Liberty

- The exterior of the statue is made of copper which has turned green due to oxidation.
- There are 354 steps to climb to the top of the crown inside the statue.
- The face of the statue looks a lot like the mother of the sculptor Bartholdi.
- The statue was often the first thing that immigrants coming to America would see as they neared Ellis Island.
- The statue weighs around 225 tons.
- The crown of the statue has seven rays which represent the seven continents and seven seas of the world.

## QUIZ

1) What country gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

England      Germany      China      France      Russia

2) What year was the Statue of Liberty dedicated?

1776      1886      1901      1945      1976

3) Who designed the internal grid structure that supports the statue?

Thomas Edison      Henry Ford      Gustave Eiffel      Isaac Newton      Antoine Lavoisier

4) What does the tablet in her left hand represent?

Law      Education      Reading      Writing      England

5) If you include the pedestal and foundation, around how tall is the statue?

50 feet      100 feet      300 feet      500 feet      1000 feet

6) True or False: It took around 100 years to build the statue.

right      wrong

7) What is the statue holding high in her right hand?

Sword      Flag      Nothing      Pen      Torch

8) Who is the statue modeled after?

The Greek goddess Aphrodite      Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra VII      Queen Elizabeth I  
The Roman goddess Libertas      Martha Washington

9) Who was the sculptor that designed the Statue of Liberty?

Pablo Picasso      Henry Moore      Frederic Bartholdi      Jasper Johns      Auguste Rodin

10) True or False: Around 4 million people visit the statue each year.

right      wrong