SPEAKING FOCUS

Famous speeches — Ronald Reagan.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, (...) today is a day for mourning and remembering. Nancy and I are pained to the core by the tragedy of the shuttle Challenger. We know _____ all of the people of our country.

This is truly a national loss. Nineteen years ago, almost to the day, we lost three astronauts in a terrible accident on the ground. But we've never lost an astronaut in flight. _____ a tragedy like this. And perhaps we've forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle. But they, the Challenger Seven, _____, but overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly. We mourn seven heroes (...) We've grown used to wonders in this century. It's hard to dazzle us. But for twenty-five years the United States space program _____. We've grown used to the idea of space, and, perhaps we forget that, _____. We're still pioneers. They, the members of the Challenger crew, were pioneers."

(Space Shuttle "Challenger" Tragedy Address, Ronald Reagan, 1986)

1. What is the tragedy former President Ronald Reagan is talking about?
2. Why are the men who died considered heroes?
3. When he says "we have grown used to wonders", what could the word "wonders" refer to?
4. What are some of the wonders of your own time that you have grown used to?



Developing vocabulary

1. mourning

2. core

3. loss

4. crew

5. to overcome

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING FOCUS



Parts of speech

*Write a **thesis statement** that you would use to **open** a speech about the pros and cons of the **development** of the Internet.*



Fluency

Could they have chosen a different path?

***As far as I know**, they could have chosen a different path.*

1. Might they have gone too far into the cave?
2. Must there have been a mistake?
3. Should we have made more pizza?
4. Might she have phoned the wrong person?
5. Could they have picked too many flowers?
6. Should we have printed more copies?
7. Might he have asked the right girl?
8. Couldn't they have come to my party?



Listen and discuss

COMMUNICATION IN THE FUTURE

1. What means of communication through the Internet are mentioned?
2. What was unimaginable 50 years ago?
3. What advantages and disadvantages of communication through the Internet are mentioned?
4. Do you use the means of communication mentioned?
5. Do you agree that there are advantages and disadvantages? What are they, in your opinion?

Public Speaking Hints

Do not use too many words in each slide.

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SPEAKING FOCUS

Transcript

📖 Texto: *Communication in the Future*

Over the last few decades, communication has gone through a complete transformation. Fifty years ago, people relied on letters, landline telephones, and face-to-face conversations to exchange information. Today, thanks to the internet, we can communicate instantly with people from all around the world. Popular platforms such as email, instant messaging apps like WhatsApp, and video calls via Zoom or Google Meet have become part of our daily routines.

What once seemed like science fiction—speaking face-to-face with someone on the other side of the globe, in real-time—is now an everyday experience. Social media has also revolutionized the way we share ideas, feelings, and information.

However, this evolution comes with both advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, we are more connected than ever, which helps build global relationships, promotes collaboration, and makes remote work and study possible. On the other hand, constant online communication can lead to misunderstandings due to lack of body language or tone. It may also increase social isolation or create an addiction to virtual validation.

Looking ahead, communication is likely to become even more immersive, with technologies like virtual reality and artificial intelligence playing a key role. But while the tools may change, the human need to connect and express ourselves will remain the same.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING FOCUS

President's Ronald Reagan Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd planned to speak to you tonight to report on the state of the Union, but the events of earlier today have led me to change those plans. Today is a day for mourning and remembering. Nancy and I are pained to the core by the tragedy of the shuttle Challenger. We know we share this pain with all of the people of our country. This is truly a national loss.

Nineteen years ago, almost to the day, we lost three astronauts in a terrible accident on the ground. But, we've never lost an astronaut in flight; we've never had a tragedy like this. And perhaps we've forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle; but they, the Challenger Seven, were aware of the dangers, but overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly. We mourn seven heroes: Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis, and Christa McAuliffe. We mourn their loss as a nation together.

For the families of the seven, we cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy. But we feel the loss, and we're thinking about you so very much. Your loved ones were daring and brave, and they had that special grace, that special spirit that says, 'Give me a challenge and I'll meet it with joy.' They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. They wished to serve, and they did. They served all of us.

We've grown used to wonders in this century. It's hard to dazzle us. But for twenty-five years the United States space program has been doing just that. We've grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we've only just begun. We're still pioneers. They, the members of the Challenger crew, were pioneers.

And I want to say something to the schoolchildren of America who were watching the live coverage of the shuttle's takeoff. I know it is hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them.

I've always had great faith in and respect for our space program, and what happened today does nothing to diminish it. We don't hide our space program. We don't keep secrets and cover things up. We do it all up front and in public. That's the way freedom is, and we wouldn't change it for a minute. We'll continue our quest in space. There will be more shuttle flights and more shuttle crews and, yes, more volunteers, more civilians, more teachers in space. Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue. I want to add that I wish I could talk to every man and woman who works for NASA or who worked on this mission and tell them: "Your dedication and professionalism have moved and impressed us for decades. And we know of your anguish. We share it."

There's a coincidence today. On this day 390 years ago, the great explorer Sir Francis Drake died aboard ship off the coast of Panama. In his lifetime the great frontiers were the oceans, and a historian later said, 'He lived by the sea, died on it, and was buried in it.' Well, today we can say of the Challenger crew: Their dedication was, like Drake's, complete.

The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honoured us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for the journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God.'

Thank you.

President Ronald Reagan - January 28, 1986

(at https://www.historyplace.com/speeches/reagan-challenger.htm)

LIVEWORKSHEETS