

Obama's acceptance speech 4 th November 2008	Obama's inauguration speech 20 th January 2009
<p>will18 America15 people14 tonight14 can13 new11 nation8 know7 many7 more7 time7 yes7 campaign6 change6 long6 states6 world6 answer5 cannot5 election5 hope5 never5 told5 victory5 ahead4 american4 americans4 best4 history4 spirit4 support4 united4 years4 century3 democracy3 fall3 first3 grew3 hand3 happen3 hours3 jobs3 little3 made3 man3 moment3 must3 party3 progress3 service3 strength3 thank3 voices3 vote3 way3 white3 work3 achieve2 achieved2 always2 ann2 around2 ask2 Atlanta2 ballot2 began2 belongs2 better2 beyond2 bless2 block2 brave2 brick2 built2 call2 calloused2 cast2 cause2 challenges2 chance2 children2 collection2 coming2 congratulate2 cooper2 country2 creed2 crisis2 David2 day2 disabled2 done2 doors2 dream2 family2 far2 financial2 fought2 generation2 god2 government2 grateful2 harder2 house2 imagine2 journey2 liberty2 live2 lives2 longer2 look2 love2 measure2 men2 millions2 months2 nation's2 next2 Nixon2 old2 opportunity2 ourselves2 partner2 pay2 peace2 politics2 power2 president2 promise2 proved2 remaking2 remember2 republican2 rise2 road2 schools2 seek2 sister2 stand2 stories2 street2 struggle2 task2 times2 tomorrow2 touched2 unyielding2 values2 wall2 watching2 woman2 women2 won2 working2 year2 young2 true2</p>	<p>will19 can13 nation12 new11 all9 america8 because8 been8 must8 do7 less7 people7 today7 cannot6 now6 common6 time6 work6 generation5 day5 know5 more5 spirit5 world5 crisis4 end4 greater4 long4 meet4 men4 peace4 power4 seek4 women4 words4 across3 Americans3 carried3 courage3 earth3 economy3 father3 force3 freedom3 future3 hope3 generations3 god3 government3 hard3 history3 may3 ideals3 jobs3 journey3 last3 life3 man3 many3 moment3 nations3 oath3 old3 ourselves3 prosperity3 question3 rather3 shall3 small3 afford2 again2 age2 ambitions2 better2 America's2 American2 answer2 begin2 big2 birth2 bless2 blood2 brave2 build2 calls2 care2 challenges2 charter2 child2 children2 confidence2 conflict2 enduring2 cooperation2 country2 defense2 done2 duties2 era2 extend2 face2 faced2 fail2 faith2 false2 far2 fear2 feed2 find2 founding2 free2 friend2 gift2 good2 icy2 greatness2 grows2 health2 hours2 knowledge2 liberty2 light2 lines2 longer2 market2 might2 minds2 mutual2 never2 nothing2 part2 passed2 path2 planet2 play2 promise2 prosperous2 purpose2 remain2 remember2 restore2 schools2 service2 short2 something2 stand2 storms2 stronger2 success2 task2 thank2 traveled2 true2 trust2 understand2 understood2 virtue2 war2 waters2 way2 wealth2 west2 willing2 willingness2 winter2 workers2 year2 yet2</p>

Suggested ways in to the speeches (KS3 and 4)

Points to consider

- The two texts above contain key words from Obama's two speeches, arranged in order of **frequency**. The numbers tell you how many times each word was spoken.
- Looking at the largest, most frequently occurring words, colour/highlight the ones you feel are key words and try to think about why they might be important.
- You will see that the text has been highlighted. The yellow highlighting relates to positive 'can do' words, while the blue relates to negative words.
- Now look at Obama's acceptance speech. What colour dominates? Now look at his inauguration speech. Is the same colour dominant? Briefly discuss your findings and what you can infer from them.
- Now continue to go through the speeches, highlighting the positive and negative words.
- Do you notice any other similarities? What differences are there in Obama's choice of words before and after he became President?
- How can you account for the shifting tone and vocabulary and what conclusions can you draw from this?
- Can you find any other interesting patterns? You might want to use different colours to highlight these words.
- Are there any words that have been repeated often that you find interesting or surprising? Make a list/discuss.

Your turn ...

- Choose the words you find most interesting, powerful, emotive or compelling, and create your own word map or *wordle* (a word cloud). Use www.wordle.net for a whizzy alternative.