

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

From George Washington to Barack Obama,  
they are the great makers of the United States.  
Let's listen to their great voice...

# GREAT SPEECHES

跟美国总统学英语



Inaugural Addresses of 38 Presidents  
of the United States

〔美〕贝拉克·奥巴马 等/著 刘津/编



中国发展出版社  
CHINA DEVELOPMENT PRESS

013035829

H319.4:D

71

# GREAT SPEECHES

## 跟美国总统学英语



### Inaugural Addresses of 38 Presidents of the United States

[美] 贝拉克·奥巴马 等/著 刘津/编



北航

C1643521



中国发展出版社  
CHINA DEVELOPMENT PRESS

H319.4:D

71

## 图书在版编目 ( CIP ) 数据

Great Speeches: 跟美国总统学英语 (英文)/(美) 奥巴马等著;  
刘津编. —北京: 中国发展出版社, 2013.4

ISBN 978-7-80234-863-9

I. ①G… II. ①奥… ②刘… III. ①英语—语言读物 ②总统—就职演说—汇编—美国 IV. ①H319.4: D

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2012) 第264984号

书 名: Great Speeches: 跟美国总统学英语

著作责任者: [美] 贝拉克·奥巴马等

编 者: 刘 津

出版发行: 中国发展出版社

(北京市西城区百万庄大街16号8层 100037)

标准书号: ISBN 978-7-80234-863-9

经 销 者: 各地新华书店

印 刷 者: 北京领先印刷有限公司

开 本: 880×1230 mm 1/32

印 张: 14

字 数: 350千字

版 次: 2013年4月第1版

印 次: 2013年4月第1次印刷

定 价: 29.80元

咨询电话: (010) 68990642 68990692

购书热线: (010) 68990682 68990686

网 址: <http://www.develpress.com.cn>

电子邮件: [fazhanreader@163.com](mailto:fazhanreader@163.com)

[fazhan02@drc.gov.cn](mailto:fazhan02@drc.gov.cn)

---

版权所有·翻印必究

本社图书若有缺页、倒页, 请向发行部调换

From George Washington to Barack Obama,  
they are the great makers of the United States.

Let's listen to their great voice...

## FOREWORD

---

From George Washington to Barack Obama, Presidents have used inaugural addresses to articulate their hopes and dreams for a nation. Collectively, these addresses chronicle the course of this country from its earliest days to the present.

Inaugural addresses have taken various tones, themes and forms. Some have been reflective and instructive, while others have sought to challenge and inspire. Washington's second inaugural address on March 4, 1793 required only 135 words and is the shortest ever given. The longest on record—8,495 words—was delivered in a snowstorm March 4, 1841 by William Henry Harrison.

Invoking a spirit of both history and patriotism, inaugural addresses have served to reaffirm the liberties and freedoms that mark our remarkable system of government. Many memorable and inspiring passages have originated from these addresses. Among the best known are Washington's pledge in 1789 to protect the new nation's "liberties and freedoms" under "a government instituted by themselves," Abraham Lincoln's plea to a nation divided by Civil War to heal "with malice toward none, with charity toward all," Franklin D. Roosevelt's declaration "that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself,"

and John F. Kennedy's exhortation to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

This collection is being published for Chinese readers, it is our hope that this volume will serve as an important and valuable reference for historians, scholars and the English learners.

## CONTENTS



<b>01</b>	<b>George Washington (1789-1797)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	1
	Second Inaugural Address	6
<b>02</b>	<b>John Adams (1797-1801)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	7
<b>03</b>	<b>Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	15
	Second Inaugural Address	20
<b>04</b>	<b>James Madison (1809-1817)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	28
	Second Inaugural Address	32
<b>05</b>	<b>James Monroe (1817-1825)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	36
	Second Inaugural Address	46
<b>06</b>	<b>John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	60
<b>07</b>	<b>Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	70
	Second Inaugural Address	74
<b>08</b>	<b>Martin Van Buren (1837-1841)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	78
<b>09</b>	<b>William Henry Harrison (1841)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	90

<b>10 James Knox Polk (1845-1849)</b>	
Inaugural Address	115
<b>11 Zachary Taylor (1849-1850)</b>	
Inaugural Address	130
<b>12 Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)</b>	
Inaugural Address	134
<b>13 James Buchanan (1857-1861)</b>	
Inaugural Address	145
<b>14 Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)</b>	
First Inaugural Address	154
Second Inaugural Address	165
<b>15 Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877)</b>	
First Inaugural Address	168
Second Inaugural Address	172
<b>16 Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)</b>	
Inaugural Address	177
<b>17 James A. Garfield (1881)</b>	
Inaugural Address	186
<b>18 Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893)</b>	
Inaugural Address	196
<b>19 Grover Cleveland (1893-1897)</b>	
First Inaugural Address	210
Second Inaugural Address	215
<b>20 William McKinley (1897-1901)</b>	
First Inaugural Address	223
Second Inaugural Address	235
<b>21 Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)</b>	
Inaugural Address	242



## CONTENTS

<b>22</b>	<b>William Howard Taft (1909-1913)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	246
<b>23</b>	<b>Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	263
	Second Inaugural Address	268
<b>24</b>	<b>Warren G. Harding (1921-1923)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	273
<b>25</b>	<b>Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	284
<b>26</b>	<b>Herbert Hoover (1929-1933)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	296
<b>27</b>	<b>Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	309
	Second Inaugural Address	315
	Third Inaugural Address	320
	Fourth Inaugural Address	325
<b>28</b>	<b>Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	327
<b>29</b>	<b>Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	335
	Second Inaugural Address	342
<b>30</b>	<b>John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	348
<b>31</b>	<b>Lyndon Baines Johnson (1963-1969)</b>	
	Inaugural Address	353
<b>32</b>	<b>Richard Milhous Nixon (1969-1974)</b>	
	First Inaugural Address	359
	Second Inaugural Address	366

**33 Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)**

Inaugural Address 372

**34 Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)**

First Inaugural Address 377

Second Inaugural Address 384

**35 George Bush (1989-1993)**

Inaugural Address 393

**36 Bill Clinton (1993-2001)**

First Inaugural Address 400

Second Inaugural Address 405

**37 George W. Bush (2001-2009)**

First Inaugural Address 412

Second Inaugural Address 418

**38 Barack Obama (2009- )**

First Inaugural Address 425

Second Inaugural Address 432

## George Washington

### *First Inaugural Address*

In the City of New York  
Thursday, April 30, 1789



[The Nation's first chief executive took his oath of office in April in New York City on the balcony of the Senate Chamber at Federal Hall on Wall Street. General Washington had been unanimously elected President by the first electoral college, and John Adams was elected Vice President because he received the second greatest number of votes. Under the rules, each elector cast two votes. The Chancellor of New York and fellow Freemason, Robert R. Livingston administered the oath of office. The Bible on which the oath was sworn belonged to New York's St. John's Masonic Lodge. The new President gave his inaugural address before a joint session of the two Houses of Congress assembled inside the Senate Chamber. ]

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

AMONG the vicissitudes incident to life no event could have filled me with greater anxieties than that of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the 14th day of the present month. On the one hand, I was summoned by my country,

whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years—a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary as well as more dear to me by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions in my health to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence one who (inheriting inferior endowments from nature and unpracticed in the duties of civil administration) ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions all I dare aver is that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance by which it might be affected. All I dare hope is that if, in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendent proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens, and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me, my error will be palliated by the motives which mislead me, and its consequences be judged by my country with some share of the partiality in which they originated.

Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these

essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency; and in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities from which the event has resulted can not be compared with the means by which most governments have been established without some return of pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me, I trust, in thinking that there are none under the influence of which the proceedings of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.

By the article establishing the executive department it is made the duty of the President "to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The circumstances under which I now meet you will acquit me from entering into that subject further than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are assembled, and which, in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute, in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected

to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications I behold the surest pledges that as on one side no local prejudices or attachments, no separate views nor party animosities, will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests, so, on another, that the foundation of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality, and the preeminence of free government be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my country can inspire, since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage; between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity; since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained; and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, perhaps, as deeply, as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

Besides the ordinary objects submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the fifth article of the Constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture by the nature of objections which have been urged against the system, or by the degree of inquietude which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your discernment and pursuit of the public good; for I assure myself that whilst you

carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience, a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen and a regard for the public harmony will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question how far the former can be impregably fortified or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted.

To the foregoing observations I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and will therefore be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed; and being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline as inapplicable to myself any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department, and must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the station in which I am placed may during my continuance in it be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require.

Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication that, since He has been pleased to favor the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquillity, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government for the security of their union and the advancement of their happiness, so His divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

## ***Second Inaugural Address***

In the City of Philadelphia  
Monday, March 4, 1793

[President Washington's second oath of office was taken in the Senate Chamber of Congress Hall in Philadelphia on March 4, the date fixed by the Continental Congress for inaugurations. Before an assembly of Congressmen, Cabinet officers, judges of the federal and district courts, foreign officials, and a small gathering of Philadelphians, the President offered the shortest inaugural address ever given. Associate Justice of the Supreme Court William Cushing administered the oath of office.]

Fellow Citizens:

I AM again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America.

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in your presence: That if it shall be found during my administration of the Government, I have in any instance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may (besides incurring constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony.



## John Adams

### *Inaugural Address*

In the City of Philadelphia  
Saturday, March 4, 1797



[The first Vice President became the second President of the United States. His opponent in the election, Thomas Jefferson, had won the second greatest number of electoral votes and therefore had been elected Vice President by the electoral college. Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth administered the oath of office in the Hall of the House of Representatives in Federal Hall before a joint session of Congress.]

WHEN it was first perceived, in early times, that no middle course for America remained between unlimited submission to a foreign legislature and a total independence of its claims, men of reflection were less apprehensive of danger from the formidable power of fleets and armies they must determine to resist than from those contests and dissensions which would certainly arise concerning the forms of government to be instituted over the whole and over the parts of this extensive country. Relying, however, on the purity of their intentions, the justice of their cause, and the integrity and intelligence of the people, under an overruling Providence