

Hope, Power, and Change

“The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.” — Steve Jobs



Warm up

- Is it easy to lose hope about world problems today? Why / why not?
- What issue concerns people most in your country today?
- If you could solve one global problem immediately, what would it be?
- Do young people have enough power to create change in society?
- Why do some people stop caring about social or political problems?
- Have you ever felt frustrated because people in power ignored a problem?
- Would you speak publicly about an issue if people strongly disagreed with you? Why / why not?



1. What changes would you most like to see in your country in the next 10 years? Choose your top 3 issues and explain your choices.

better education

less
discrimination

lower pollution

better healthcare

lower cost of living

better public
transport

better work-life
balance

better mental
health support

safer cities



2. In your opinion, who has the power to create the most change? Rank the groups from 1-7 (1 = most powerful).

Group	Rank
Politicians	
Activists	
Teachers	
Celebrities	
Athletes	
Ordinary people	
Social media influencers	



3. In pairs or small groups, compare your rankings and explain your choices.

- Which group did people disagree about most?
- Which group has the most influence on young people today?
- Which group has the least REAL power?



4. In your opinion, how effective are these actions at creating real change? Tick (✓) the best option for each action.

Action	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective
Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Voting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donating money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signing petitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boycotting companies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending protests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educating others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharing information online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



5. In pairs or small groups, compare your answers and discuss the following questions.

- Which action is the most effective? Which action is the least effective? Why?
- Which action do you think is overrated or underestimated?
- Which actions have you personally done, and which would you like to do more often?
- Are there any important actions missing from the list?
- Can small actions create big change?

Expressing Contrasting Ideas

When discussing complicated topics such as politics, social change, or world problems, people often connect contrasting ideas to sound more balanced and thoughtful.

although / even though

Used to introduce a surprising contrast.

"Although many people want change, real progress can be slow."

however

Used to introduce a contrasting idea in a new sentence.

"Many people support equality. However, discrimination still exists."

while

Used to compare or contrast two different ideas.

"While social media can spread awareness, it can also spread misinformation."

but / yet

Used to connect contrasting ideas.

"Many people care about poverty, yet very little actually changes."

despite

Used before a noun or -ing form to show contrast.

"Despite public protests, the law was not changed."

on the other hand

Used to introduce an opposite viewpoint.

"Some people believe online activism is effective. On the other hand, others think it changes very little."

Remember

- although / even though / while → followed by a subject + verb
- despite → followed by a noun or -ing form
- however / on the other hand → usually begin a new sentence or idea



6. Complete the statements so they become true for you. Be ready to share and discuss your ideas with a partner or group.

(possible answers)

- a. Although people talk about changing the world, *many people are unwilling to change their own habits.*
- b. Even though social media gives everyone a voice, *important issues are often ignored.*
- c. Young people are often told they can create change; however, *many feel powerless.*
- d. Despite advances in technology, *inequality still exists in many parts of the world.*
- e. While protests can attract attention, *real political change can take years.*
- f. Many people say they care about equality, yet *discrimination still exists everywhere.*
- g. Although people want politicians to solve problems, *governments often move very slowly.*
- h. Despite knowing about global problems, many people still *many people still do nothing to help.*
- i. While hope can inspire people, *action is needed to create real change.*
- j. Many people support change online, but *they rarely take action in real life.*



7. In pairs or small groups, compare your answers and discuss the questions below.

- Which statements created the most agreement and disagreement?
- Who was the most optimistic, and who was the most pessimistic?



8. You are going to watch a TED Talk by Malala Yousafzai called *What I Got Wrong About Changing the World*. Before watching, match the words to their definitions.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| a. Oppression | 3 | 1. certain to happen |
| b. to advocate | 5 | 2. feeling unable to deal with everything |
| c. overwhelmed | 2 | 3. cruel or unfair treatment |
| d. ambitious | 7 | 4. the state of being treated fairly and equally |
| e. decree | 6 | 5. to publicly support something |
| f. equality | 4 | 6. an official order made by a person in power |
| g. accountability | 8 | 7. having strong goals and big plans |
| h. inevitable | 1 | 8. responsibility for actions or decisions |



9. Before watching, read the short introduction and discuss the following questions.

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.”
- Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist who became internationally famous for fighting for girls' education. When she was only 11 years old, she began speaking publicly after the Taliban took control of her region and banned girls from attending school.

Even though speaking out was extremely dangerous, Malala continued giving interviews, writing blogs, and publicly criticizing the Taliban. While many people admired her courage, others warned that she was becoming a target.

In 2012, when she was just 15 years old, a masked Taliban gunman stopped her school bus, asked for her by name, and shot her in the head at point-blank range in front of her classmates. The bullet passed through her head and into her shoulder. Yet somehow, Malala survived.

Despite the attack, multiple surgeries, and months of recovery, Malala continued speaking publicly about education and human rights. At the age of 17, she became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet over time, her understanding of hope, progress, and changing the world became far more complicated. In this TED Talk, she reflects on what she once believed and what she believes now.



- Had you heard of Malala before? What did you know about her?
- What part of her story surprised or shocked you most?
- Why do some groups fear educated girls?
- What challenges do you think Malala still faces today?
- Do you think people can lose hope without giving up completely?
- What do you think she might say she “got wrong” about changing the world?



10. You are going to watch the TED Talk [video](#)¹ in two parts. Watch part 1 (0:00 to 5:46) and complete the timeline with the missing information as you listen.

<u>Age/Year</u>	<u>Key Event</u>
11 years old	<i>Taliban banned girls from going to school; Malala became an activist.</i>
15 years old	<i>Malala was shot by the Taliban on her school bus but survived.</i>
August 2021	<i>Taliban took control of Afghanistan again; Malala lost hope in progress.</i>



11. Watch part 2 (5:46–end) and complete the notes about Malala’s three lessons.

<u>Malala’s lesson</u>	<u>Examples from the TED Talk</u>
Start with something	<i>supported underground schools; girls continued learning secretly</i>
Work with others	<i>films about Afghanistan; football team campaign; artists and athletes raising awareness</i>
Stay ambitious	<i>fighting gender apartheid; pushing for international laws; continuing the fight for women’s rights</i>



12. After watching the video, discuss the following in pairs or small groups.

- Which idea or moment from the TED Talk affected you most? Why?
- Do you think Malala is more hopeful or more realistic now?
- Which of Malala’s three lessons do you think is most important today?

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weZQQVxPRIA>