

This month marks the 80th anniversary of Dunkirk. Between 26th May and 4th June 1940, Britain evacuated 338,226 men from the coast of France in a place called Dunkirk after Allied troops were cut off and surrounded by Nazi German soldiers.

The event is generally perceived as a disaster for Britain in the early years of the Second World War because of the huge numbers of people that had to escape and retreat from France, allowing Germany to take control.

At this point in the War, the USA was not yet involved in the fighting.

Over 800 boats helped to evacuate the British soldiers including the Coronica and The Regal Lady from Scarborough. You can still see these in the harbour today! The Regal Lady is being converted into a museum to celebrate its role in the war. Following Dunkirk, the Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave a now famous speech. You can find this speech on page 2 along with lots of notes explaining why it is such a great speech.

You are going to pretend that you are the Prime Minister of the UK in 1940! You are going to write a short speech to **inspire the people of Britain** that they **can and will succeed** despite the problems of Dunkirk.

Purpose: Inspire and persuade

Audience: The people of Great Britain

Form: A persuasive speech.



Key words to use

Britain
Hope
Future
Determination
Strength
Unity
Honour
Diligence
Allies

Not sure how to start?

We stand here today on the brink of history. Why? Because...

Good luck! I look forward to reading your speeches!

Pronoun
Anaphora
Verb
Metaphor
Adjective
Repetition
Alliteration

Like any good persuasive speech, this one contains lots of **pronouns** decided to make the audience feel **united as one** against a common enemy or working towards a common goal.

Churchill employs a lot of **anaphora**, which is where you repeat the start of a clause (part of a sentence) again and again. He says 'if' at the start of each clause, "if necessary" and "that is". It **reiterates his ideas but also adds a certainty and authority to his words** that suggests Britain will do anything it has to in order to defend itself.

Churchill uses **metaphors** to imply war is **temporary** ("the storm of war") and that Britain is **fighting a just cause** against "the menace of tyranny", reminding the British public that they must defeat the evils of fascism.

"I have, myself, full confidence that **if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone.**

At any rate, **that is** what **we** are going to try to do. **That is** the resolve of His Majesty's Government-**every** man of them. **That is** the will of Parliament and the nation.

Churchill uses **alliteration** to **emphasise the ideas** of British people doing their jobs and focusing on every last detail.

The mixture of **verbs** ("defend", "prove", "outlive") **highlight how Britain is being challenged but will be victorious**, whilst the **adjectives** in the speech **accentuate the strength of Britain and its people.**

Pronoun
Anaphora
Verb
Metaphor
Adjective
Repetition
Alliteration
Simile
Modal verb

Churchill uses a lot of **alliteration** in this part of the speech, to **exaggerate the strength and determination of the British people**, but also to accentuate the evil of the Nazis.

Additionally, Churchill uses **verbs** like 'linked' and 'aiding' to show a common bond between Britain and its ally France, as well as the simile of "like good comrades".

The British Empire and the French Republic, **linked** together in **their** cause and in **their** need, **will defend to the death** their native soil, **aiding** each other **like good comrades** to the utmost of **their** strength.

Even though **large** tracts of Europe and many **old and famous** States have **fallen** or may **fall** into the **grip** of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we **shall not flag or fail.**

Moreover, Churchill adds in **modal verbs** (words which change the meaning of verbs) to add further strength to his ideas and **show how determined he and Britain are.**

Pronoun
Anaphora
Verb
Metaphor
Adjective
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Simile
Modal verb

This section of the speech is probably the most well-known. Check out all the **anaphora** being used! "We shall" x10! Churchill combines **anaphora, pronouns** and **modal verbs** to really hammer home to his audience that **they are strong, determined and resilient.**

We shall go on to the end, **we shall** fight in France, **we shall** fight on the seas and oceans, **we shall** fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, **we shall** defend **our** Island, whatever the cost may be, **we shall** fight on the beaches, **we shall** fight on the landing grounds, **we shall** fight in the fields and in the streets, **we shall** fight in the hills; **we shall** never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were **subjugated and starving**, then **our** Empire beyond the seas, **armed and guarded** by the British Fleet, would **carry on** the struggle, until, in God's good time, **the New World**, with all its power and might, **steps forth to the rescue** and the **liberation** of the old."

Towards the end of the speech Churchill **alludes or indirectly refers** to America by calling them "**the New World**". It's a massive compliment and he refers to their 'power and might' and asks them to "**step forth to the rescue**" to help Britain and its allies. Churchill carefully balances showing how strong Britain is with hinting at the need for help from other countries against Nazi Germany and its allies.