

# Nelson Mandela Worksheet

By **Really Learn English**

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Nelson Mandela is one of the most influential people in history. “Influential” means that he has done many wonderful things and has changed many people’s lives.

Mandela is a man who fought his entire life for equality and freedom. “Equality” means that every person has the same rights and is thought to be the same as everyone else. He has been a leader, an activist (person who fights for something peacefully), and a president. To many people, Nelson Mandela is a symbol for freedom and justice (fairness).

## **Early Years**

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 in a very small town called Mvezo in South Africa. From a very young age, Mandela knew that he wanted to help black people in South Africa have equal rights to the white people who lived there.

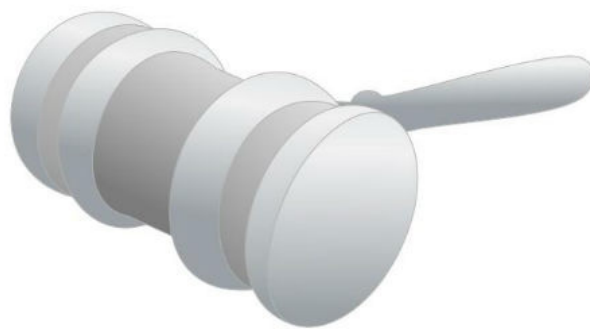
As a young man, he became very active politically. This means that he attended protests and spoke out against laws that were unfair. He also studied law and became a lawyer so that he could help people. He and his friend opened the first black law firm in South Africa in 1952.

## **Imprisonment**

In 1948, the ruling political party in South Africa passed a law called apartheid. "Apartheid" was a law that said that black people and white people were not equal.

Apartheid made it legal for people to treat black South Africans badly. For example, people could say that a job was for a white person and not a black person. In addition, black people were not allowed to vote in political elections.

This new law made many black South Africans very angry. Mandela tried to get people to stand up for their rights and say out loud that this law was unfair. Over the next 20 years, he was arrested and put in jail many times.



In 1964, Mandela was arrested and put on trial for sabotage (being against the government). "Put on trial" means that he was accused of a crime and went to court. During that trial, he gave a famous speech explaining his beliefs.

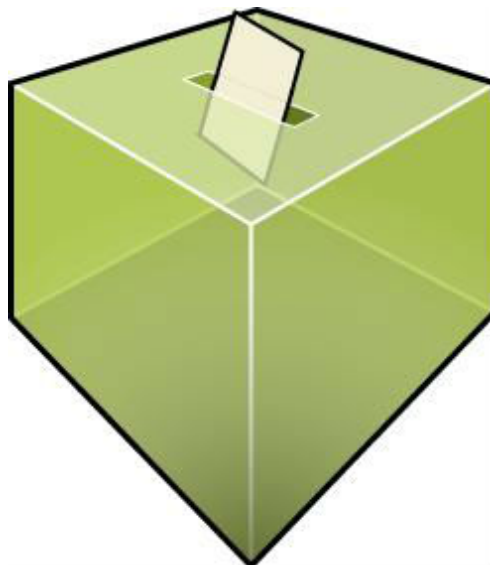
He said, "I have fought against white domination (control), and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished (loved) the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony (peace) and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal, which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Mandela was sentenced (punished) to life in prison. He stayed in prison for 26 years until he was released in 1990.

### **Presidency**

After he was released from prison, Mandela worked together with the white president of South Africa, who was named FW de Klerk. Together they ended apartheid. Black South Africans were finally seen as equal to white South Africans.

In 1994, Mandela voted in an election for the first time in his life. He was 76 years old.



He was elected president of South Africa and served as the first black president of that country. He stepped down (stopped being president) in 1999.

Today, Nelson Mandela is thought of around the world as a person who fought for equality. He is an example of many people of how to stand up for what you believe in.

## Nelson Mandela Worksheet – Exercises

### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Where was Nelson Mandela born?

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2. What two things did Mandela fight for during his life?

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3. What law did Mandela help end?

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### B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

**Examples for the sentence “Mandela was 76 years old.”**

**Negative:** Mandela was not 76 years old.

**Yes/No Question:** Was Mandela 76 years old?

**WH-Question:** Who was 76 years old?

**Tag Question:** Mandela was 76 years old, wasn't he?

1. Mandela is one of the most influential people in history.

**Negative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes/No Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WH-Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tag Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. This new law made many black South Africans angry.

**Negative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes/No Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WH-Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tag Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. In 1994, Mandela voted for the first time in his life.

**Negative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes/No Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WH-Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tag Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Write the correct word in the blank.**

1. Mandela fought his entire life \_\_\_\_\_ equality and freedom.

- a) to                                      b) with                                      c) for

2. Nelson Mandela is \_\_\_\_\_ symbol for freedom and justice.

- a) a    b) an    c) the

3. Nelson Mandela was born \_\_\_\_\_ July 18, 1918.

- a) in    b) on    c) about

4. In 1964, Mandela \_\_\_\_\_ arrested and put on trial.

- a) is    b) was    c) would be

5. \_\_\_\_\_ that trial, he gave a famous speech explaining his beliefs.

- a) However                                      b) Though                                      c) During

6. He stayed \_\_\_\_\_ prison for 26 years.

- a) in    b) for    c) on

7. Mandela worked \_\_\_\_\_ with the white president of South Africa.

- a) for    b) together                                      c) to

8. He was \_\_\_\_\_ president of South Africa.

- a) elects    b) elected    c) election

## Nelson Mandela Worksheet – Answers

### A. Answer the following questions.

1. Where was Nelson Mandela born?

Nelson Mandela was born in Mvezo, South Africa.

2. What two things did Mandela fight for during his life?

Mandela fought for freedom and equality during his life.

3. What law did Mandela help end?

Mandela helped end apartheid, which was a law that said that black people were not equal to white people.

### B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

1. Mandela is one of the most influential people in history.

**Negative:** Mandela is not one of the most influential people in history.

**Yes/No Question:** Is Mandela one of the most influential people in history?

**WH-Question:** Who is one of the most influential people in history?

**Tag Question:** Mandela is one of the most influential people in history, isn't he?







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