

# 1 Listening Comprehension - Answer Key

Text: Rudy Giuliani, *Opening Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Terrorism*, [from the beginning to 10:17]

<http://americanrhetoric.com/mp3clips/911speeches/rudygiuliani911unitednations.mp3>

Transcript of this excerpt:

Thank you, President of the General Assembly, Dr. Han Seung-Soo, and Secretary General, Annan. And thank you very much for the opportunity to speak, and also for the consideration you showed the City in putting off your General Session. And as I explained to the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly, we are now open, and we're ready, and at any time we can arrange it, we look forward to having -- having your heads of state and your foreign ministers here for -- for that session.

On September 11th 2001, New York City -- the most diverse City in the world -- was viciously attacked in an unprovoked act of war. More than five thousand innocent men, women, and children of every race, religion, and ethnicity are lost. Among these were people from 80 different nations. To their representatives here today, I offer my condolences to you as well on behalf of all New Yorkers who share this loss with you. This was the deadliest attack -- terrorist attack in history. It claimed more lives than Pearl Harbor or D-Day.

This was not just an attack on the City of New York or on the United States of America. It was an attack on the very idea of a free, inclusive, and civil society. It was a direct assault on the founding principles of the United Nations itself. The Preamble to the U.N. Charter states that this organization exists "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person...to practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors...[and] to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security."

Indeed this vicious attack places in jeopardy the whole purpose of the United Nations. Terrorism is based on the persistent and deliberate violation of fundamental human rights. With bullets and bombs, and now with hijacked airplanes, terrorists deny the dignity of human life. Terrorism preys particularly on cultures and communities that practice openness and tolerance. Their targeting of innocent civilians mocks the efforts of those who seek to live together in peace as neighbors. It defies the very notion of being a neighbor.

This massive attack was intended to break our spirit. It has not done that. It's made us stronger, more determined, and more resolved. The bravery of our firefighters, our police officers, our emergency workers, and civilians we may never learn of, in saving over 25,000

lives that day, and carrying out the most effective rescue operation in our history, inspires all of us.

I'm very honored to have with me as their representatives, the fire commissioner of New York City, Tom Von Essen. Tom, please stand up.

And the police commissioner of New York City, Bernard Kerik.

The determination, resolve, and leadership of President George W. Bush has unified America and all decent men and women around the world. And the response of many of your nations, your leaders and people, spontaneously demonstrating in the days after the attack, your support for New York and America, and your understanding of what needs to be done to remove the threat of terrorism, gives us great, great hope that we will prevail.

The strength of America's response -- please understand -- flows from the principles upon which we stand. Americans are not a single ethnic group. Americans are not of one race or one religion. \*Americans emerged from all of your nations. We're defined as Americans by our beliefs, not by our ethnic origins, our race or our religion.\* Our belief in religious freedom, political freedom, economic freedom -- that's what makes an American. Our belief in democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human life -- that's how you become an American.

It's these very principles and the opportunities these principles give to so many to create a better life for themselves and their families that make America and New York a shining city on a hill. There's no nation in the history of the world and no city that has seen more immigrants in less time than America. And people continue to come here in large, large numbers to seek freedom, opportunity, decency, civility.

Each of your nations, I'm certain, has contributed citizens to the United States and to New York. I believe I can take every one of you someplace in New York City, and you can find someone from your country, someone from your village or town, that speaks your language and practices your religion. In each of your lands, there are many who are Americans in spirit by virtue of their commitment to our shared principles.

It's tragic and perverse that it's because of these very principles, particularly our religious, political, and economic freedoms, that we find ourselves under attack by terrorists. Our freedom threatens them, because they know if our ideas of freedom gain a foothold among their people, it will destroy their power. So they strike out against us to keep those ideas from reaching their people.

The best long-term deterrent and approach to terrorism, obviously, is the spread of the principles of freedom and democracy and the rule of law and respect for human life. The more that spreads around the globe, the safer we will all be. These are very, very powerful ideas. And once they gain a foothold, they cannot be stopped.

In fact, the rise that we've seen in terrorism and terrorist groups, I believe, is in no small measure a response to the spread of these ideas, freedom and democracy, to many nations,

particularly over the past 15 years. The terrorists have no ideas or ideals with which to combat freedom and democracy. So their only defense is to strike out against innocent civilians, destroying human life in massive numbers and hoping to deter all of us from our pursuit and expansion of freedom.

But the long-term deterrent of spreading our ideals throughout the world is just not enough -- and may never be realized -- if we do not act, and act together, to remove the clear and present danger posed by terrorism and terrorists. The United Nations must hold accountable any country that supports or condones terrorism. Otherwise, you will fail in your primary mission as peacekeeper. It must ostracize any nation that supports terrorism. It must isolate any nation that remains neutral in the fight against terrorism.

Now is the time in the words of your charter, the United Nations Charter, "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security." This is not a time for further study or vague directives. The evidence of terrorism's brutality and inhumanity, of its contempt for life and the concept of peace is lying beneath the rubble of the World Trade Center, less than two miles from where we meet today. Look at that destruction, that massive, senseless, cruel loss of human life, and then I ask you to look in your hearts and recognize that there is no room for neutrality on the issue of terrorism: You're either with civilization or with terrorists.

On one side is democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human life; on the other, it's tyranny, arbitrary executions, and mass murder. We're right and they're wrong. It's as simple as that.

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14 Sep. 11 <<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/rudygiuliani911unitednations.htm>>

## C QUESTIONS AND TASKS

**1. After greeting his listeners, Giuliani states the following (do not tick more than 2 options):**

- More than 5.000 helpers lost their lives in the 9/11 attack.
- People from 80 different nations were killed.
- New York is the most complicated city in the world.
- The attacks were more fatal than two other historic fights in which the US were involved.

**2. What does Giuliani say about the significance of the attack? Complete his sentence:**

It was an attack on the very idea of a **free, inclusive, and civil** society. It was a direct assault on the **founding principles** of the United Nations itself.

**3. Giuliani calls the terrorist attacks a danger to the purpose of the United Nations - why?**

The United Nations believe in human rights, in the dignity of human beings. The terrorists deliberately violate basic human rights.

**4. What was the intended effect of the attacks, and what effect did they really have?**

The attacks were intended to demoralize the people of the U.S. - but in reality, it has made them stronger and more determined.

**5. Giuliani describes the US reaction to the attacks as follows (do not tick more than 2 options):**

- The determination of President George W. Bush has unified America.
- The response of many nations makes the US hopeful that they will win in the end.
- The strength of America's response is a principle we understand.
- Americans are not a fun race.

**6. Giuliani more or less identifies New York with the USA; he claims that both ... (1 option)**

- ... are a shining citizen upon a hill.
- ... have had more immigrants in a shorter time than any other country or city.
- ... are full of citizens that were forced to leave other countries.

**7. What is it that Giuliani calls "tragic and perverse"?**

It is the fear of American freedom (religious, political, and economic) that makes the terrorists attack America.

**8. Giuliani claims to know what is the best way to stop terrorism. It is:**

the spread of the principles of freedom and democracy , and  
the rule of law and respect for human life.

**9. The speaker reminds the United Nations of their tasks (1 option):**

- The UN must make it clear that countries that support terrorism or do nothing against it will be made responsible for what happens.
- If they do not take this task seriously, they will fail their task of peacemakers.
- They must isolate any nation who remains a new troll.

**10. This passage (up to 10:17) ends with these words:**

We're **right** and they're **wrong**. It's as  
simple as that .

*(Peter Ringeisen)*