

Upper-Intermediate - Live from Washington (D0034)

A: This is Madeline Wright, for BCC News reporting live from Washington D. C. where, very shortly, the new President will deliver his inaugural address. Just moments ago, the President was sworn-in to office; following the United States Constitution the President swore an oath to faithfully execute the office of the presidency.

B: And what exactly is going on now, Madeline?

A: Well, Tom, true to American tradition, the band has just played “Hail to the Chief”, and the President has been honored by a 21-gun salute. Now we’re waiting for the President to take to the stage and deliver his speech. Tom, it’s like a who’s who of the political world here on Capital Hill, with dignitaries representing several different countries.

B: What’s the mood on the ground like, Madeline?

A: In a word, the mood here is electric. The excitement in the air is palpable; I've never seen a larger crowd here on Capital Hill, and the audience is shouting, crying, and embracing each other. On this, a most historic day, you can feel the hope and the excitement in the air. The 20th of January will go down in history as the Oh, Tom, it looks like the President is about to begin...

C: My fellow Americans, today I stand before you...

Key Vocabulary

deliver	<i>Verb</i>	give information by speaking; say something officially
swear in	<i>Verb</i>	place someone in a new position by holding an official ceremony where he promises to do the job well
oath	<i>Noun (singular)</i>	official, serious promise

who's who	<i>Phrase</i>	important and famous people in a particular industry
dignitary	<i>Noun (plural)</i>	person with a high rank or position, especially in government or religion
palpable	<i>Adjective</i>	so strong you can feel it, obvious
in a word	<i>Phrase</i>	to describe it in one word
fellow	<i>Adjective</i>	used to describe people of the same group
go down in history	<i>Phrase</i>	be remembered

Supplementary Vocabulary

ceremony	<i>Noun (singular)</i>	activity or action that are the official part of a formal official state or social occasion
festivities	<i>Noun (non-count)</i>	celebration, enjoyment, and happiness

president-elect

Noun (singular)

a person who has been voted president, but not yet officially made president

parade

Noun (singular)

a public celebration of an event where many people move down a street in groups or on vehicles; usually involves a marching band

term

Noun (singular)

time allowed for one person to remain President after one election; in America a presidential term is four years

affirmation

Noun (singular)

a show of agreement or dedication

inaugural
cheon

lun-

Phrase

formal lunch celebrating the inauguration