

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

第14回 English Extravaganza(Rebecca 先生放送原稿) Fri. January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

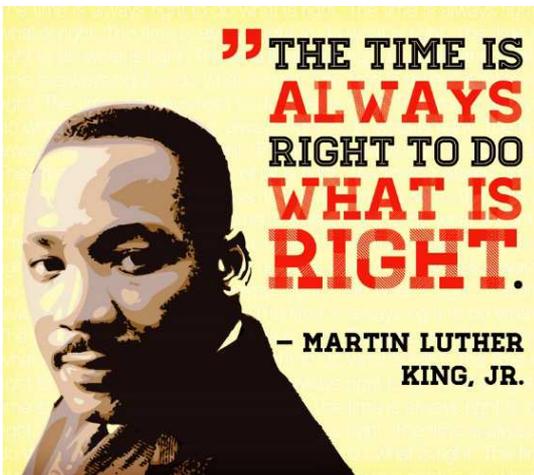
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Hi, everyone! Welcome back for another English Extravaganza. Another holiday happened in the United States this week. This past Monday was Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This holiday is usually fairly quiet, since public buildings and schools close, although some community events may take place.

The holiday marks the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is remembered in American history for his nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement(公民権運動), which took place in the 1960's. He helped lead peaceful protests against racial discrimination(人種差別) in federal and state laws(連邦法及び州法). Many of his peaceful protests were marches in big cities, including Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Surprisingly, it is believed that he made up part of that speech on the spot(その場で) and it is one of the most famous speeches in American history! His work led to the Civil Rights Act(公民権法) and the Voting Rights Act(投票権法), which outlawed(不法とした) discrimination in voting, in schools, the workplace, and in public places. Because of his efforts, he won the Nobel Peace Prize when he was only 35 years old. He donated all the money he received from the prize to the Civil Rights Movement.



Over the past few years, the holiday has become a day of service(奉仕). People pay their respects to the memory of Dr. King by volunteering in their communities. For example, President Obama often served lunch at soup kitchens in Washington on the holiday. Although it is an American holiday, the day is also celebrated in a few other parts of the world, including Toronto, Canada, and Hiroshima, here in Japan. These days especially, I think it is important to remember and promote Dr. King's message of peace and humanity. That's all for this time.

I'll see you next week!