Frederick Douglass was one of the most famous African American abolitionists. That means he worked to abolish slavery. He was the leading African American speaker of the 1800s. He also met with President Abraham Lincoln in the White House during the Civil War.

Douglass was a former slave from Maryland. His freedom was not easily obtained. As a child, his master's wife taught him how to read and write. After that, he knew he wanted to be free. He escaped to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The first time he spoke was at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Douglass simply told the audience what freedom meant to him. Everyone was very impressed by his speech. So the society sent him on the road to lecture about life as a slave.

Douglass published his autobiography in 1845. After that he fled to England. He wanted to avoid being recognized as a runaway slave in the United States. Runaway slaves could be arrested. While in England, Douglass continued to speak against slavery. Through the help of his friends, he was able to buy his freedom.

Two years later, Douglass returned to the United States. He created an anti-slavery newspaper. He also aided the Underground Railroad. Eventually, he became an unofficial advisor to Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.
escape  es·cape

Definition
verb
  1. to get free from something; to get away.

  The dog escaped out the front door.

  The prisoner escaped from jail.

Advanced Definition
intransitive verb
  1. to free oneself from physical confinement.

  I tried to close the door quickly, but the cat escaped.

  Two prisoners escaped from the prison during the night.

  2. to avoid capture or other danger; get away.

  The house was on fire, but the family was able to escape.

  Though roadblocks were set up, the criminal escaped.

  3. to leak out, as a fluid or gas.

  The gas was able to escape because the seal was not tight.

transitive verb
  1. to get away from; avoid; evade.

  He escaped going to prison because of his youth.

  Some people are able to escape punishment for their crimes.

  The little boy tried to escape being smothered with kisses by his well-meaning aunt.

  2. to elude (recollection or notice).

  Fortunately, the insult escaped his notice.

  3. to slip out from by mistake, as a remark or comment.
The remark escaped my lips before I could reconsider.

**noun**
1. the act or an instance of freeing oneself or escaping from physical confinement.

   *Escape from such a prison was thought to be impossible.*

   *It is still unclear how the captives made their escape.*

2. avoidance of, or a way in which to avoid, an unpleasant or harmful event or situation.

   *As soon as he arrives at these dreaded social functions, he starts planning his escape.*

   *Her escape from committee duties allowed her more time with her family.*

   *The patient had suffered so much that he saw death as an escape.*

3. a way to avoid reality.

   *The movies are a good escape.*

4. a means of getting away from something harmful.

   *Most apartment buildings are equipped with a fire escape.*

**Spanish cognate**

*escape*: The Spanish word *escape* means *escape*.

**These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:**

1. Practice an *escape* plan with your family.

2. Some left their home countries to *escape* wars.

3. You can often see the gas *escape* as water vapor.

4. She lived during a time when it was illegal to help slaves *escape* to freedom.

5. The Underground Railroad was a system of secret routes that helped slaves *escape* to free states.

6. Have a home fire *escape* plan. Draw the plan and talk about it. The drawing should show two ways out of each room.
runaway  run·a·way

Advanced Definition

noun
1. one who has fled or run away; fugitive.
2. something, such as a vehicle, that has broken away from confinement or restraint.
3. (informal) a clear and easy victory.

adjective
1. having fled or run away.
   
   a runaway child

2. having escaped confinement or restraint.
   
   a runaway train

   runaway inflation

3. easily won, as a competition.
   
   a runaway election

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Most runaway slaves traveled hundreds of miles.

2. After that he fled to England. He wanted to avoid being recognized as a runaway slave in the United States. Runaway slaves could be arrested.
1. According to the passage, how did Frederick Douglass get his freedom?
   A. Lincoln gave him special freedom.
   B. He moved to Massachusetts.
   C. He moved to England.
   D. He bought his freedom.

2. What information does the author provide about Douglass' life as a child?
   A. Douglass lived in England as a child and wanted to go to America.
   B. Douglass was a slave but he was taught to read and write.
   C. Douglass grew up in the North during the Civil War.
   D. Douglass was raised in Massachusetts but was forced to leave.

3. Which of these statements supports the idea that Douglass was an important figure in the Civil War?
   A. He published an autobiography in 1845.
   B. He served as an advisor to President Lincoln.
   C. He lived in England for two years to avoid arrest.
   D. He purchased his freedom with the help of friends.

4. Read the following sentences: "Everyone was very impressed by his speech. So the society sent him on the road to lecture about life as a slave."

   The word **lecture** most nearly means
   A. to give a speech
   B. to write an essay
   C. to hold a protest
   D. to learn a lesson
5. This passage is mainly about

   A. how Frederick Douglass helped the Underground Railroad.
   B. Frederick Douglass' life as an abolitionist.
   C. how Frederick Douglass escaped from to Massachusetts.
   D. advice that Frederick Douglass gave to Abraham Lincoln.

6. What did Frederick Douglass go on tour making speeches about?

    ________________________________________________________________

    ________________________________________________________________

    ________________________________________________________________

7. Explain why it was important in Frederick Douglass' life that he was taught to read and write by his master's wife.

    ________________________________________________________________

    ________________________________________________________________

    ________________________________________________________________

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

   Douglass wanted to avoid being recognized as a runaway slave in the United States
   ___________ runaway slaves could be arrested.

   A. after
   B. so
   C. but
   D. because