

FLEX ENGLISH COMMUNICATION I

<Lesson 4>

Part 1

Malala Yousafzai was born in 1997 in the Swat Valley in Pakistan. There, women could not do the same things that men could. Most girls could not go to school. Women could not have jobs outside the home. They had to stay home, do housework, and raise children.

Malala's father was a teacher. He believed that everyone should be able to get an education. He built a school in the Swat Valley. His school not only accepted boys, but girls too.

Her father's way of thinking has had a great influence on hers. As Malala grew up, she had a strong desire to break the tradition which treated women so badly. She came to believe that men and women should be treated equally.

Part 2

When Malala was ten years old, something terrible happened: a military group called the Taliban came from Afghanistan to the Swat Valley. This was because the United States had attacked Afghanistan several years earlier.

Soon the Taliban controlled much of the region, and they made new laws. Under these laws, girls could not go to school at all. When the people there did not obey the laws, the Taliban punished them. Sometimes, they were killed.

Malala had to choose between her safety and her education. However, she never gave up. She wanted to go back to school someday.

Part 3

In 2009, Malala began writing an online diary about her life in the Swat Valley. She wrote about her desire to attend school again. Later, she started appearing on TV and the radio. She spoke about women's right to get an education. She received a lot of attention from the mass media inside and outside Pakistan. The Taliban, however, became angry about her actions.

In spite of the Taliban's orders, Malala had started going to school again. On October 9, 2012, when she was walking home from school, a Taliban member shot her in the head. He wanted to silence her. She was badly injured and taken to a hospital in England. Luckily, she survived.

Part 4

Trying to silence Malala has only made her stronger. On her 16th birthday, she made a speech at the UN about the importance of education.