"I do not wish women to have power over men, but over themselves."

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 – 1797), English writer

1. Women's Rights Discussion

1. Who are the most important women in history?
2. What are the main differences between men and women? Are there any differences in the way they communicate? What kind of behaviours are considered appropriate for a man but not for a woman?
3. Are there any things that men are better at than women? How about things women are better at than men?
4. What are some typical jobs associated with women? Is this still true in the modern day?
5. What different attitudes do people have towards female bosses compared to male bosses? Which do you prefer?
6. Are there different family roles for men and women in your country? If so, what are they?
7. Do you think it's more difficult to be a woman than a man? Why or why not?
8. Would it be better if women ruled the world? Why or why not?

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2. Women's Rights Vocabulary

- **sexism** (concept), **sexist** (person, adjective) – *discrimination based on sex; someone who behaves in a way that discriminates against the opposite sex.*
- **feminism** (concept), **feminist** (person, adjective) – *the theory or belief that women should have the same rights as men; someone who believes in, or campaigns for, feminism.*
- **suffrage** (noun) – *the right to vote in political elections.*
- **glass ceiling** (noun) – *an unacknowledged barrier, such as discrimination or attitudes, to advancement in a profession, especially affecting women and members of minorities.*
- **gender pay gap** (noun) – *the difference in earnings for men and women who work.*
- **(to) gender stereotype** (verb, noun) – *to generalise men or women based on their preconceived behaviours, characteristics or roles; a generalisation of men or women.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. The British government introduced a ban on harmful _____ in adverts, such as a man putting his feet up while a woman does the housework.
2. Discrimination against women in the workplace means there is a _____ preventing them from progressing in their careers at the same rate as their male colleagues.
3. The person who interviewed me was so _____. He even asked me when I was planning on having children!
4. The _____ means that for every pound a man earns, a woman only earns 82p.
5. The first country to introduce universal _____ was New Zealand in 1893, although women were not allowed to actually stand for election.
6. _____ protested outside the town hall yesterday to demand that the mayor resign after he was accused of sexually harassing an intern.

Women's Rights vocabulary comprehension questions

1. How do you explain sexism? Have you ever witnessed any sexist behaviour?
2. Would you describe yourself as a feminist? Why do so many people oppose feminism? Are these people against equal rights for women?
3. When did your country introduce universal suffrage? Why didn't women get the right to vote when men did?
4. What are some of the barriers women face at work that create the glass ceiling?
5. How do you explain the gender pay gap?
6. What are some gender stereotypes in adverts or elsewhere?

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3. Video: Women's Suffrage

You are going to watch a TED Ed video called "The Historic Women's Suffrage March On Washington".

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-womens-rights/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What did women call for on March 3, 1913?
   a) new constitution *b) a constitutional amendment* *c) to repeal an amendment*
2. How long had women been campaigning for by 1913?
   a) years *b) decades* *c) centuries*
3. In how many states could women vote in 1896?
   a) 0 *b) 2* *c) 4*
4. Alice Paul was inspired by suffragettes in which country?
   a) New Zealand *b) Belgium* *c) The United Kingdom*

Sentence completion

5. Instead of campaigning in individual states, Alice Paul wanted to change the law to give women the right to vote _____.
6. Alice Paul arranged a parade the day before the presidential inauguration of Woodrow Wilson to maximise _____.
7. Alice Paul tried to discourage _____ women from participating in the parade.
8. Mary Church Terrell, co-founder of the NAACP, joined the parade with _____ founders of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Short answer

9. Who did not intervene when a mob blocked the route and began assaulting the women?
10. What did equal suffrage score according to the Women's Journal?
11. When did Inez Milholland die?
12. Before she died, Inez Milholland asked the president how long women must wait for what?

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4. Women's Rights Conversation Questions

1. Why do women's rights exist? Why do women need rights? What are some ways women's rights violated? What kind of risks are women more vulnerable to than men?
2. Are men and women truly equal in your country? Is there a difference between equal rights granted by law and true equality?
3. Why have there been so few female presidents or prime ministers?
4. How can the problem of gender imbalance in important positions in government or business be fixed?
5. Are men and women portrayed differently in TV shows or on the news in your country?
6. Why do women around the world have less access to education?
7. Which countries have a poor record on women's rights? Should equality between men and women be a universal human right, or should cultures' attitudes towards women be respected?
8. What could you do to support women's rights?

5. Women's Rights Writing Task

Write about your opinion of women's rights. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Discrimination that women face.
- Why this discrimination exists.
- How society can be made fairer for women.

Alternative exam practice question:

Women can do any job that a man can do. Do you agree or disagree with this?

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