

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: You will listen to an article about Hillary Rodham Clinton. The article is about 4.5 minutes long. Listen only, and don't worry about understanding everything.

Step 2: Look at the questions. Read and understand them, then listen again. As you are listening, try to answer the questions in your head. Don't write the answers yet. Next, listen again and write the answers this time. Compare your answers with a partner.

Step 3: Read the article. Check in your dictionary any unknown words. Now listen again. Can you understand more?

Step 4: Listen! Listen! Listen! Listen to the article on the train or in your free time. Each time you listen, you will slowly improve!

QUESTIONS

Answer the questions to check comprehension. If you don't know an answer, don't worry. Skip it. Then listen again.

1. When and where was Hillary Clinton born?

2. What groups did she join as a child?

3. According to the article, why is she famous?

4. What did Bill Clinton's joke "get two for the price of one" mean?

5. What happened to her at Rose Law Firm?

6. The article states that she is a "polarizing figures." What does this mean?

7. What percent of the vote did she get the first time she won her Senate seat? How about the second time?

8. What are some of her accomplishments since she became a Senator?

9. The article states that the race to become the next US President was hers to lose. What does this mean?

10. Why does the article conclude that she may want to try for the Presidency again?

the ARTICLE

Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in 1947 in Park Ridge, Illinois, where she grew up in a middle class and conservative family. Like any number of children from that era, she joined such social clubs as Brownies and Girl Scouts. She participated in church activities, as well as the debate team, student council, and the National Honor Society. She volunteered for Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater in 1964 during high school. Later she went to Wellesley College to study political science, then Yale Law School. In short, Hillary had an upbringing marked by drive and success, but which was also unprivileged.

Hillary has become a well-known figure throughout the world, in part because of the eight years she served as First Lady. Yet she is an accomplished woman in her own right, too. Her opinions, positions, and work in law, education, and women's rights make her instantly recognized wherever she goes. She became the first First Lady to hold a post-graduate degree, as well as to have her own professional career. In fact, during her husband's campaign in 1993, he often joked that the American people would "get two for the price of one."

Before her eight years in the White House, she had quite an impressive career. She worked at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She continued to practice law at Rose Law Firm, where she became the first woman to be made a full partner. The National Law Journal twice named her among the top one hundred most influential lawyers in America. She also worked to improve education in Arkansas through better testing standards for new teachers, and a pre-literacy program for very young children.

On January 20th, 2007, she began her bid to become the first woman elected to the US Presidency. She announced, "I'm in. And I'm in to win." And although she is a polarizing figure - you either love her or hate her - it seemed that she had been determinedly working towards that goal since 2000. She first ran for a New York Senate seat, won with 55% of the vote, and increased her popularity to win with 67% of the vote in 2006. She worked to get additional money for New Yorkers after the terrorist attacks of September 11th. She has visited American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. She voted against the Bush tax cuts, demanded a balance budget, and disagreed with proposed laws that would prohibit same-sex marriages. Many in the media called it her race to lose.

At first she attracted impressive numbers of women voters and blue-collar workers. Yet a successful bid was not to be so. In a hotly contested spring 2008, Barak Obama won many of the primaries to become the Democratic nominee. Hillary promoted women's issues, and demonstrated that women can do anything. She is often quoted as being responsible for 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling.

Given her past successes, her narrow defeat to Obama in 2008, and her drive, she may very well be eyeing the next Presidential election.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (optional)

1. Which paragraph was the easiest to listen to? Which paragraph was the most difficult? Look at the vocabulary and sentence structure, then think why one paragraph was easy and another difficult.

2. Listen for these words, understand the context, then try to repeat the information from the sentence:

era (paragraph 1)

post-graduate (paragraph 2)

impressive (paragraph 3)

polarizing figure (paragraph 4)

3. Listen and write the sentences:

Hillary has become a well-known figure throughout the world... (paragraph 2)

She continued to practice law at Rose Law Firm, where... (paragraph 3)

And although she is a polarizing figure - you either... (paragraph 4)

In a hotly contested spring 2008... (paragraph 5)

ANSWERS

QUESTIONS
1. Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in 1947 in Park Ridge, Illinois.
2. She joined Brownies and Girl Scouts, and church activities, too. She also took part in the debate team, student council, and the National Honor Society, and volunteered for presidential candidate Barry Goldwater in 1964.
3. She is famous because of the eight years she served as First Lady of the United States, and because she is an accomplished woman in her own right.
4. It meant that she would take a strong role in her husband's Presidency.
5. She became the first woman to be made a full partner at Rose Law Firm.
6. You either love her or hate her.
7. She won with 55% of the vote in 2000, and 67% of the vote in 2006.
8. She worked to get additional money for New Yorkers after the terrorist attacks of September 11th. She has visited American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. She voted against Bush's tax cuts, demanded a balanced budget, and disagreed with proposed laws that would prohibit same-sex marriages.
9. Everyone knew her name and her positions, and she attracted many women and blue-collar voters.
10. She may want to run again because of her past successes, her narrow defeat to Obama in 2008, and her drive.
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES - Listen and write the sentences.
...in part because of the eight years she served as First Lady.
...she became the first woman to be made a full partner.
...love her or hate her - it seemed that she had been determinedly working towards that goal since 2000.
...Barak Obama won many of the primaries to become the Democratic nominee.