

# CELEBRATIONS

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## International Women's Day

Teacher's notes

Age: Adults

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: Approx. 90 minutes

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

1. read a text about *International Women's Day*, looking at the language involved;
2. write questions to ask a well-known woman;
3. write a short text about a female role model from their own life.

**Language focus:** vocabulary related to *International Women's Day*, questions and reasons, and role models.

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student.

### Procedure

#### 1. Women of the world

Working in pairs, students write the name of one well-known women (preferably, but not necessarily, women who are alive today and not just historical figures) next to each category. Set a time limit of five minutes for this part of the task as the aim is not to carry out any research at this stage but to utilize students' own knowledge and ideas.

Then ask students to compare their lists and talk about which categories were easy for them to complete and which ones were not so easy. Ask whether the students found it more difficult to come up with names for certain categories, and if yes, then which ones.

#### 2. Key words and expressions

Students skim the article to find and underline the key words and expressions. Then they write them next to the definitions. Lastly, they read the article again slowly, noticing how the key words are used in context.

#### Key:

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. equal          | 7. economic            |
| 2. challenge      | 8. support             |
| 3. stereotypes    | 9. rights              |
| 4. discrimination | 10. demanded           |
| 5. achievements   | 11. hold public office |
| 6. gender         | 12. local              |

#### 3. Comprehension check

Students read the statements and decide whether they are true or false. They should correct and rewrite any that are false.

#### Key (suggested answers):

1. True.
2. True.
3. False. They were attended by more than one million women and men.
4. False. The United Nations officially recognised IWD in the year 1975. / Berlin officially made IWD a public holiday in 2019.
5. False. Anyone can run an IWD event – they can even order free event packs from the IWD website.
6. False. IWD will continue, as women are still not equal to men in many ways.

#### 4. Discussion

Students work alone and choose a woman for each situation. They can use their ideas from Exercise 1 to help them. Then, in small groups, they discuss and expand upon their answers saying what they might want to ask, what they would do if they spent a day with one of the women, etc.

#### 5. Questions for a special woman

This task builds upon Exercise 4.

- a. In pairs, students choose just one of the women they named in Exercise 4 and write five questions that they would like to ask her.
- b. Ask students to share what they have written with other students and say why they would like to ask these particular questions and possibly even what answer they might hope or expect to get.

#### 6. Writing

This task can be done in class or set as homework. Using any (or none) of the words in the box as ideas to start them off, students write a short text (3–4 sentences) about a woman they respect or admire. They may write about any woman, from the present or the past. This should not be a well-known person. This time they should think about someone from their own lives, e.g. their mother, grandmother, sister or other family member, their friend, a teacher or indeed anyone else who has somehow positively touched their lives in a positive way.

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### 1. Women of the world

a. Write the name of a well-known female for each category.

politician	_____	artist	_____
business leader	_____	designer	_____
scientist	_____	writer	_____
musician	_____	activist	_____
actor	_____	social media influencer	_____

b. Work in pairs. Compare and discuss your lists.

### 2. Key words and expressions

Read the article about *International Women's Day* quickly. Find the keywords in context and match them to the definitions below.

achievements      challenge      discrimination      equal      gender      stereotypes

1. when people are all treated in the same way as one another \_\_\_\_\_
2. when you question and ask whether something is true or right \_\_\_\_\_
3. strong and simple ideas about what a particular type of person or thing is like \_\_\_\_\_
4. unfair treatment of someone because of their religion, race, or other personal features \_\_\_\_\_
5. things that people have succeeded in doing, even when the things were difficult \_\_\_\_\_
6. male, female, or other \_\_\_\_\_

demanded      economic      hold public office      local      rights      support

7. relating to business, industry and trade \_\_\_\_\_
8. help an idea or way of thinking become successful \_\_\_\_\_
9. things that you are morally or legally allowed to do or have \_\_\_\_\_
10. said very strongly that they wanted something \_\_\_\_\_
11. have a job in the government \_\_\_\_\_
12. in or related to the area that you live in \_\_\_\_\_

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Worksheet

### International Women's Day



International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated in many countries around the world on 8 March each year.

Each year IWD has a special theme. The theme for International Women's Day 2020 is #EachforEqual, because an equal world is a stronger world. The official IWD website says that we all should try to challenge stereotypes, fight discrimination, and celebrate women's achievements. We are asked to remember that, "each one of us can help create a gender equal world"<sup>1</sup>.

IWD celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women everywhere. It started over a century ago, on 8 March, 1911. On that day, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, more than one million women and men came together to support women's rights. They demanded that women should be allowed to vote, to hold public office and to get proper training for jobs.

The United Nations decided to officially celebrate IWD in 1975. It is now one of the biggest supporters of women's rights and equality around the world.

In 2019, Berlin, the capital of Germany, made International Women's Day a public holiday for the very first time.

These days, there are not only thousands of large International Women's Day events such as concerts and conferences, but also many, many more, smaller local events. These smaller events often take place in places like schools, hospitals and libraries.

The IWD website offers free event packs with posters, selfie signs, balloons, stickers, ribbons, flags, pens, wristbands, and activity packs, to help local groups advertise and decorate their events and tell the world why they are coming together to celebrate and support women.

More than 100 years after the first International Women's Day, women are still not equal to men in many ways, and so IWD continues and is as important as ever.

Let's all be #EachforEqual.

Note: International Men's Day is celebrated on 19 November each year.

<sup>1</sup>Source: [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

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### 3. Comprehension check

Are these statements true or false according to the text? Correct any that are false.

1. The celebration of International Women's Day is more than 100 years old.
2. The first large IWD meetings were held at the beginning of the twentieth century in different European countries on the same day.
3. Men were not allowed to attend the first IWD meetings.
4. The United Nations officially made IWD a public holiday in the year 1975.
5. People who want to run an IWD event need to ask permission from the United Nations.
6. The last IWD will be in 2025 because women are now equal to men.

### 4. Discussion

Complete the task for yourself, then discuss your answers.

Which of the women you noted in Exercise 1 – or other women from history – would you most like to meet to:

- have tea with? \_\_\_\_\_
- spend a whole day with? \_\_\_\_\_
- say thank you to? \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to spend a whole day with  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name) because she ...*

### 5. Questions for a special woman

a. Work in pairs. Choose just one of the women you selected in Exercise 4 and write five questions that you would like to ask her.

Who?: \_\_\_\_\_

Q1: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Q2: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Q3: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Q4: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Q5: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

b. Work in groups. Tell other students who you would like to talk to and what questions you have written and why.

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### 6. Writing

**Write 50 – 80 words about a woman you respect or admire. This could be someone from your family, a friend, a neighbour, someone you work with, or anyone else. Write why you think that she is a good role model. The words in the box might help you write your short text.**

strong	kind	clever	brave	modest	intelligent	fair
generous		positive	caring	helpful	hard-working	