

Has anybody invented

WOMEN

This unit is prepared for Upper-intermediate students at the Basic English Department of Middle East Technical University to raise awareness of gender inequality and women's rights issues. It is done as part of the Materials Adaptation & Development (FLE405) course at the Foreign Language Education Department at Middle East Technical University, instructed by Dr. S. Yasemin Tezgiden Cakcak.

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CRITICAL ELT MATERIALS



ORTA DOĞU TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

1



Vocabulary

-Violence Against Women
-Wage Gap



Reading

-Wage Gap Strike
-Success Stories



Speaking

-Women's Body



Grammar

-Coordinating Conjunctions



Writing

-Gender-based Violence
-Gender Stereotypes

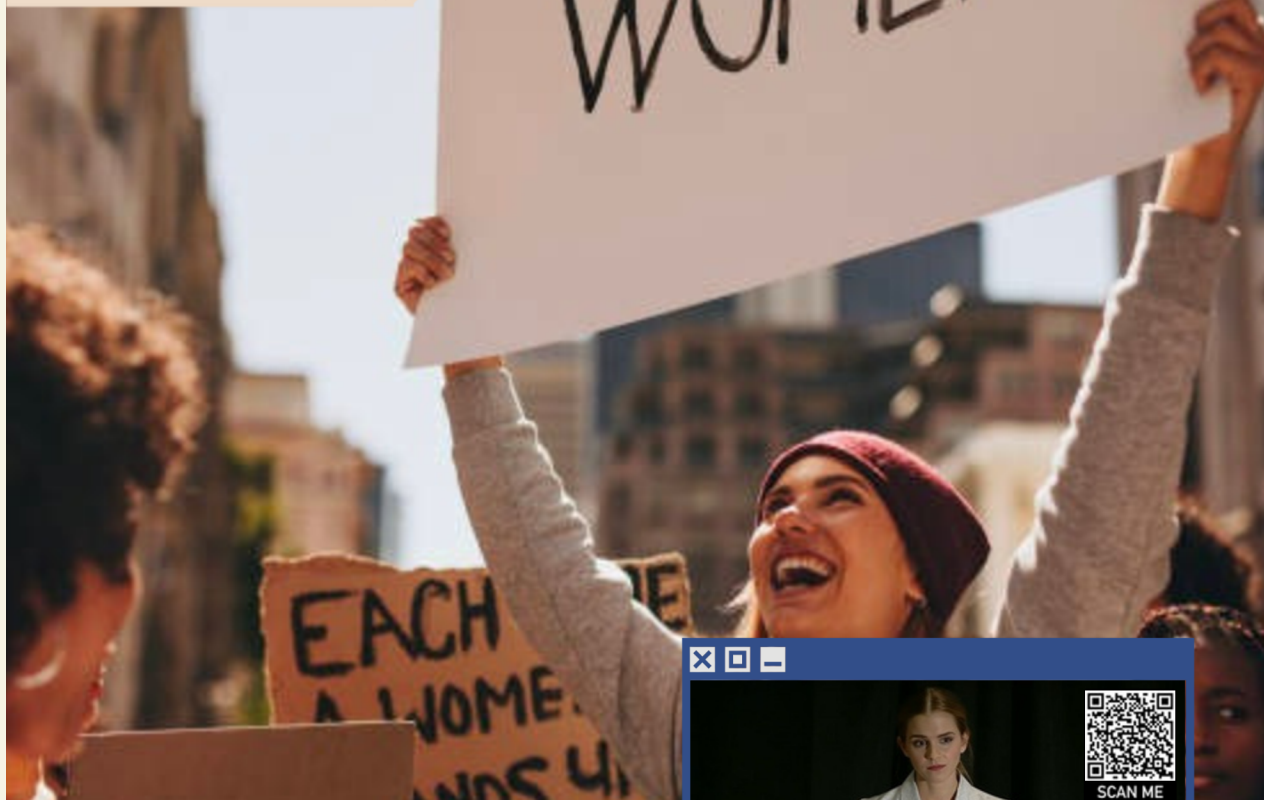


Listening

-Violence Against Women
-Black Feminist Organization
-Gender Roles

Has anybody
invented

WOMEN?



Lead-in 1 -

Class Discussion

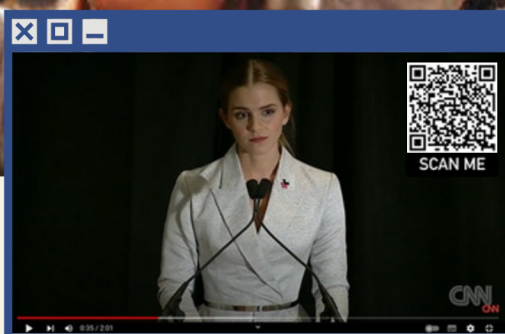


Look at the questions and share your thoughts with your classmates!

1. What is feminism to you?
2. Do you think feminist movements are needed in this century? Why/why not?
3. Can masculinism and gender equality coexist harmoniously?
4. Is your country totally fair and equal to women and men? Could you explain your answer?



CRITICAL ELT MATERIALS



2 - Work in Pairs



After watching the video, look at the questions and discuss them with your friend!

- 1- Can you think of any situation where you could not do something because of gender roles?
- 2- What do you think she means by sexualization?



3 - Comprehension Questions

Watching Emma Watson's speech, please answer the following comprehension questions. Ensure that your responses are thoughtful and refer to specific points made in the speech.

1- What realization has Emma Watson had about the perception of feminism as she has spoken more about it?

2- How does she describe the negative consequences of gender stereotypes on both boys and girls in her speech?

3- Why does she emphasize the importance of women's involvement in policies and decisions that will affect their lives?

Pre-reading



1- Class Discussion

Look at the two pictures below carefully. Answer the questions under each picture and discuss them with the whole class.



- 1- What does this picture tell us?
- 2- Have you ever heard about the #MeToo Movement?



- 1- What does this picture tell us?
- 2- What might be the reason behind this issue?



A grassroots organization is a group that operates at the local level and is typically driven by the community's members or individuals passionate about a particular cause or issue. These organizations often aim to create change or address specific needs within a community, whether it's related to social, environmental, political, or economic issues.





Iceland's First Full-day Women's Strike in 48 Years Aims to Close Pay Gap

A. Tens of thousands of women and non-binary people in Iceland, including the prime minister, are set to participate in a historic strike on Tuesday—the first of its kind in nearly 50 years. The strike aims to draw attention to persistent issues such as the gender pay gap and widespread gender-based and sexual violence in the country. This marks the first full-day women's **strike** since the 1975 "kvinnafélagið," a **pivotal** event that led to significant societal changes, including the election of the world's first female president.

B. Despite Iceland's global reputation as a leader in gender equality, some professions still witness a 21% wage gap between men and women. Additionally, over 40% of women in Iceland have experienced gender-based or sexual **violence**. Strike organizers emphasize that jobs traditionally associated with women, such as cleaning and caregiving, remain **undervalued** and underpaid.



C. The strike was organized by about 40 grassroots organizations under the slogan "Kallarðu þetta jafnrétti?" (You call this equality?), calls for closing the gender pay gap by disclosing wages in female-dominated professions. It also demands action against gender-based and sexual violence, focusing on holding **perpetrators** accountable. Unlike the 1975 strike, Tuesday's event includes women and nonbinary individuals, reflecting a collective fight against the patriarchal system.

D. Approximately 25,000 people are expected to attend an event in Reykjavík, making it potentially Iceland's largest women's strike. Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir expressed solidarity, expecting the prime minister's office to cease operations during the strike. The organizers stress the need to challenge the perception of Iceland as an "equality paradise" when faced with substantial **wage gaps** and high rates of gender-based violence.

E. In connecting the dots between violence against women and the undervaluation of women's work, the strike underscores the multifaceted challenges women face in Icelandic society. Drífa Snædal, on the executive committee of the women's strike, emphasizes the link between increased access to pornography among children and violence against women, asserting that both women's status and their monetary value in the workplace contribute to sexual violence.

F. The strike also addresses the inadequacies of the justice system in handling sexually violent crimes, as women express a loss of patience with the current state of affairs. Despite global movements like #MeToo, women in Iceland find themselves unable to rely on the justice system for resolution. As Iceland prepares for this **groundbreaking** event, it prompts reflection on the global struggle for gender equality. The strike, born out of a grassroots movement, serves as a powerful reminder that the fight for true equality requires ongoing efforts, even in countries recognized for their progress. In a world **grappling** with various challenges, the need for a free press remains paramount, as emphasized by the Guardian's plea for support to ensure its continued operation. As we approach the new year, the call for solidarity and activism echoes, underscoring the importance of collective action in shaping a more equitable future.

(Bryant, 2023)





1- Vocabulary

Read the sentences that include **bolded** vocabulary items and match the words with the definitions based on the contexts. Be careful, there is one extra definition.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. strike (n) | a. To assign a value to something lower than deserved. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. violence (n) | b. Individuals or groups responsible for committing a crime or wrongdoing. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. pivotal (adj) | c. A feeling of being not good enough or lacking in some way. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. undervalue (v) | d. A mass resistance by a group of people as a form of protest. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. perpetrators (n) | e. Struggling or wrestling with a difficult problem or situation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. wage gap (n) | f. The use of physical force to harm or damage. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. groundbreaking (adj) | g. Innovative or revolutionary, pushing the boundaries of what is known or done. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. grappling (v) | h. The difference in earnings between different groups of people. |
| | i. Essential or crucial, often marking a turning point. |

2 - Comprehension Questions

1. What are the key demands of the strike, and do you think these demands can be met? Answer this based on parts A and C.

2. What does the phrase "equality paradise" imply in part D&E?

3. What are the ongoing problems that are related to gender equality in Iceland? Which professions are undervalued and why? Answer this accordingly to part B.

4. What do you think about the role of the justice system in handling gender-based violence? Do you think the system is currently adequate? Why or why not? Could you answer this according to part F?

3- Group Discussion

1. Discuss how issues of race, class, sexual orientation, and other factors intersect with gender equality movements. How can movements better address these intersections?

2. Discuss gender equality movements and challenges in your country.

4- Let's Write

Could you write a notelet to the strikers indicating your feelings about the strike? You can mention the gender equality movement and the challenges in your country.



Listening

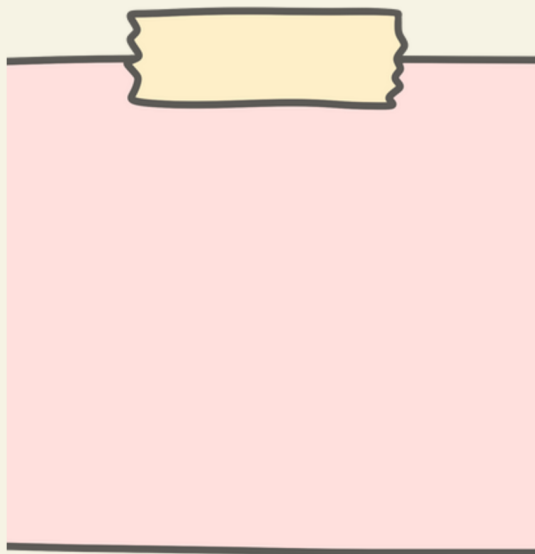
1 - Pair Discussion

Before you listen to the report, look at the pictures below and discuss the questions with a partner.

1. What do you think the high-heel shoes symbolize?
2. How do you think these pictures relate to the audio we will listen to?



You can take notes while you are listening to the audio.



2 - Listening Comprehension

Listen to the report very carefully.
Tick the topics that are mentioned.

- ☐ Gender Pay Gap
- ☐ Persistent Violence Against Women
- ☐ The "Wall of Shame"
- ☐ Cultural and Societal Norms
- ☐ Equality in The Work Force
- ☐ Challenges in Implementation
- ☐ Traditional Family Roles



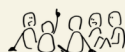
3 - Vocabulary

Listen to the audio again. Fill in the gaps with the correct word/s according to the report.

1. The _____ targeting women in Turkey continues. 2. CBS News spoke with women there who have survived _____ attacks at the hands of their partners.
3. The wall is the creation of Wahid Tuna, who says he wants to pay _____ to the victims.
4. Eighty-seven thousand women were killed in 2017, and more than one-third of them were killed by a current or a former _____.
5. Emine Bulut's murder sent shockwaves across Turkey, but _____ killings are a _____ problem.
6. Emine Bulut, who is seen in this amateur video after a _____ attack.
7. Each pair represents a woman who was killed in 2018 as a result of sexual or domestic _____.



4 - Group Discussion



Look at the questions. Discuss the questions with your group.

1. What impact do you think the "Wall of Shame" has on raising awareness about violence against women? Can public displays like this contribute to societal change?
2. Why does the report mention that gender-based killings are a global problem? How does the situation in Turkey relate to the broader global context?
3. What legal challenges do women face in Turkey when seeking protection from domestic violence?
4. Is your country totally fair and equal to women and men? Could you explain your answer?

5 - Writing



Imagine you are a person in a position of power in Turkey, responsible for addressing the issues of gender-based violence. Write a comprehensive plan outlining the steps you would take to fix the problems mentioned in the report and bring positive change.

Grammar

1- Grammar Point



Conjunctions



coordinating
conjunctions

subordinating
conjunctions

A coordinating conjunction simply joins two ideas together.

for
and
nor
but
or
yet
so

**F.A.N.
B.O.Y.S.**

Feminism empowers women, so I am a feminist.

A subordinating conjunction shows the relationship between two parts of a sentence.

however	ever since
although	finally
therefore	since
now that	moreover
despite	only if
besides	because

Men can be feminists too; therefore, I am a feminist.



2- Read and Underline



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There are three women sharing their success stories on a web page. Please read them and underline the conjunctions that are found in the texts.



Premalata

Premalata is a mother of two and realized her love for mountaineering when she was 35. She is not only the first Indian woman to scale the Seven Summits on seven continents, but also a woman who makes her own rules. Despite being educated by society about her age, Premalata started adventure sports. She was trained and mentored by Bachendri Pal. Besides, she became the first woman to climb Mount Everest in 1984. Ever since she completed her Everest climb in 2011, there has literally been no looking back for her. Finally, she was also named the top Indian woman achiever in India Times .



Stella

I'll begin by noting that life was a constant battle for me; but, I'm finally at ease with who I am. In the autumn, I started taking hormones. Although I didn't believe I'd be brave enough to leave the house like Stella for a while, my confidence rose swiftly once I had my own place. As a result, I began uploading many of my photos on social media, and I look back on them a few months later to see how things have changed. I couldn't be happier now that I get 50-60k likes every day and receive some really wonderful comments. Who would've guessed!



Charimaya

My vision is to create a world where no one has to endure the horrors of crimes like human trafficking. Having experienced trafficking myself, I found strength in that journey to become a catalyst for change. I am deeply thankful for the support that guided me, which continues to motivate me today. This inspired me to establish Shakti Samuha, an organization committed to addressing injustice through united efforts. I firmly believe that by working together, we can achieve a future founded on equality and fairness.

3 - Post-reading



You have read the inspiring stories of 3 different people and want the world to hear their stories. That's why you decided to publish a book. You should publish a summary brochure to promote your book. Prepare a summary of these three inspiring stories using 50-70 words. Your summary will be used to prepare the brochure.



CRITICAL ELT MATERIALS

4- Rewrite Sentences



Look at the sentences below that are taken from the texts you have just read. Please rewrite the sentences by changing the conjunctions. Change the sentence structure where needed.

Example:

Besides, she became the first woman to climb Mount Everest in 1984.

Moreover, she became the first woman to climb Mount Everest in 1984.

1. Despite being educated by society about her age, Premalata started adventure sports.

_____.

2. Life was a constant struggle for me; however, I am finally comfortable with who I am.

_____.

3. Therefore, I began posting a lot of my pics on social media.

_____.

4. Moreover, I give credit to the help that I got from the supporters to Shakti Samuha.

_____.

5. My power and strength come from my own experience since I was also being trafficked.

_____.

Listening



1 - Class Discussion



Before you listen to the audio, look at the pictures above. Answer the questions and discuss with the whole class.

1. When do you think these photographs were taken? 2. What do you think these people are protesting for? 3. Do you think the issues they are protesting about persist today?



2 - Group Discussion



Look at the vocabulary items to the right. Discuss the possible contexts and meanings with a group. The Combahee River Collective was a Black feminist lesbian socialist organization. They argued that both the white feminist movement and the Civil Rights Movement were not addressing their particular needs.

Identity – Civil Rights
Justice – Segregation
Intersectionality – Representation
Political Organization – Oppression

3- Let's Listen



Here is an audio file about the Black Feminist Lesbian Socialist Organization in the United States. Please listen to the audio and answer the comprehension questions below. You can take notes while you are listening to the audio.



4 - Comprehension Questions



Listen to the audio about The Combahee River Collective and answer the following comprehension questions

1. What was the primary motivation of the National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO) when it was created?

2. Why was the Combahee River Collective created despite the existence of NBFO? How did they differ in their mission?

3. Why did the Combahee River Collective choose its name? Did it have an inspiration behind it?

4. Did the Combahee River Collective leave any lasting effects on the Black Feminist movement despite disbanding in 1980?

5. Which issues did the Combahee River Collective emphasize in their protests?



Writing

1- Before writing

This unit takes its name (Has anybody invented women yet?) from an essay by Ursula K. Le Guin on gender stereotypes, feminism, and identity. Read below the given short extract from the essay.



"I am a man. Now, you may think I've made some kind of silly mistake about gender, or maybe I'm trying to fool you because my first name ends in a , and I own three bras, and I've been pregnant five times, and other things like that that you might have noticed little details. But details don't matter. I am a man, and I want you to believe and accept this as a fact, just as I did for many years. So when I was born, there actually were only men. People were men. They all had one pronoun, his pronoun; so that's who I am. I am the generic he, as in, "If anybody needs an abortion, he will have to go to another state.""

2- Discuss



Le Guin, Ursula K. (2004)

What do you think Le Guin challenges here by referring to herself as a man?

What does she try to touch upon by stating the pronoun 'he' as a default?

3- Plan your ideas

Think about your experiences and ideas to answer the questions. Note down your answers to expand them in your writing.

1. How do you place yourself in society?

2. Are you trying to fit into the definitions already given to you by society?

3. Does maintaining the definitions already accorded to you steal away at your individuality?

4. Should we let society label and tell us the dos and don'ts to be followed in keeping with those labels?

4- Let's Write

In this writing task, you will write an essay of approximately 250-300 words about gender stereotypes reflecting on your own observations and experiences.

1. In the first paragraph, describe how you place yourself in society in comparison to the definitions assigned to you by society.

2. In the second paragraph, mention the effects of the labels put on you by society on your individuality and identity.

3. In the final paragraph, conclude your essay by mentioning what we can do against these assigned definitions and labels.





1- Let's Watch and Learn



You will watch the speech of Maartje Laterveer, a writer and journalist who urges women to take charge of their bodies, and her demands from different media channels and institutions about women's bodies and external factors. After watching the video, please reflect on the video as the whole class.

2- Let's Speak!

In light of the TedX video you have just watched, prepare a TedX speech for your classmates. Imagine you are a TedX speaker giving a talk on feminism. You are expected to give a speech for 10 minutes on the main topic given to you and convey your ideas to dozens of women who come to watch you on this topic.

The main issue you need to focus on is as follows:

Who should have control over a woman's body – the government or the individual?

In order to shape your main topic during your speech, you need to use the subheadings given to you and relate them to the main topic.

Subheadings are as follows:

- Breastfeeding in public
- Social view about men's and women's identity
- Judgements on women/men's appearance
- Abortion Laws

You can take notes here



Your paragraph text

You can either present your speech based on your notes or prepare a presentation for the next class for your TEDx Talk!





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