International Women’s Day: Who inspires you?

Who inspires you? Perhaps it’s a famous woman, or maybe it’s someone from your family … Watch some people talking about this question in the video.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–j) with the vocabulary (1–10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. …… to inspire someone</td>
<td>a. to try to get something</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. …… Congress</td>
<td>b. to behave as if a problem doesn’t worry you</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. …… a role model</td>
<td>c. treating someone differently because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc.</td>
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<td>4. …… discrimination</td>
<td>d. to give someone a strong feeling of enthusiasm</td>
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<td>5. …… a refuge</td>
<td>e. the protection of animals and plants</td>
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<td>6. …… a slave</td>
<td>f. the elected group of politicians in the USA who make the law</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. …… to put on a brave face</td>
<td>g. a person who is owned by someone else and has to work for them</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. …… conservation</td>
<td>h. a person whom you admire and whose behaviour you try to copy</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. …… to go after something</td>
<td>i. the qualification you get when you finish university or college</td>
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<td>10. …… a degree</td>
<td>j. a place that gives protection from danger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 1

Match the professions (a–f) with the women (1–6).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Professions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. …… Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez</td>
<td>a. a children’s book writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. …… Leslie Feinberg</td>
<td>b. an American journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. …… Marie Colvin</td>
<td>c. an African American poet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. …… JK Rowling</td>
<td>d. a US congresswoman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. …… Phillis Wheatley</td>
<td>e. a conservationist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. …… Dian Fossey</td>
<td>f. a feminist and gender theorist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task 2
Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. a fantastic women and role model young men. for both young going to become

2. the discrimination and violence brave enough She was that she faced. to live as a butch lesbian despite

3. in a refuge. who are experiencing She helps find safety sexual violence women

4. loving, amazing a kind, She being. human was

5. first and face, puts her family She always puts on is always super positive. a brave

6. always to go after told me in life and take what I want every opportunity. She has

7. a degree. the first in her to get She was family person

8. her inspires me just capability. with She

Discussion
Which women inspire you and why?
Transcript

A woman who has recently inspired me is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is the youngest woman ever to be elected to Congress. She’s going to become a fantastic role model for both young women and young men.

A woman who really inspires me is Leslie Feinberg. She was a feminist and gender theorist. She was brave enough to live her truth in an unforgiving world, to live as a butch lesbian in ’70s and ’80s America despite all the discrimination and violence that she faced.

My friend Kate is a real inspiration to me. When I first met her she had a stable, regular job. Then she surprised all of us by moving to Guatemala to help young women who are experiencing sexual violence find a place of safety in a refuge.

A woman who inspires me is Marie Colvin. She was an American journalist and paid the ultimate price for discovering the truth. She was killed in Syria doing her job and was perhaps the bravest woman to ever be a journalist.

JK Rowling. When she wrote the Harry Potter books she was in a really difficult place in her life. She managed to make this contribution, a massive contribution to children’s literature.

A woman that inspires me is my grandmother. She moved from London to South Africa and worked at a newspaper. She was a kind, loving, amazing human being and she set up a life for myself and my family.

Phillis Wheatley. She was born in West Africa and was sold as a slave at the age of eight and she went to the US, where she learned to read and write. When she was 20 she wrote her first book of poetry – and it was the first book to be published by an African American woman ever – and lived the rest of her life as a free woman.

A woman that inspires me is my aunt. She’s had a couple of really rough years with my uncle having ALS and she always puts on a brave face and she always puts her family first and is just always super positive.

Another woman that inspires me is Dian Fossey, just a phenomenal woman, when conservation wasn’t cool, it wasn’t trendy and she actually got killed for something that she believed in and she just really inspires me, and I cry every time I hear the music.

A woman who’s really inspired me is my mum.

A woman that has inspired me my whole life is my mother, Anita.

A woman that inspires me is my mum.

Because she has always told me to go after what I want in life and take every opportunity given to me.

She always inspires me to go after what I want, no matter what roadblocks stand in my way.

She’s tough but caring and she’s a great fashionista.

She was the first person in her family to get a degree and she got that degree when she went back to school at 36 years old, and she was pregnant with me.
Also she has the best chorizo pasta recipe and she’s passed it down to me, so, yeah, for that I am thankful.

She just inspires me with her capability basically.
Answers

Preparation task
1. d
2. f
3. h
4. c
5. j
6. g
7. b
8. e
9. a
10. i

Task 1
1. d
2. f
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. e

Task 2
1. She’s going to become a fantastic role model for both young women and young men.
2. She was brave enough to live as a butch lesbian despite the discrimination and violence that she faced.
3. She helps women who are experiencing sexual violence find safety in a refuge.
4. She was a kind, loving, amazing human being.
5. She always puts on a brave face, puts her family first and is always super positive.
6. She has always told me to go after what I want in life and take every opportunity.
7. She was the first person in her family to get a degree.
8. She just inspires me with her capability.