



IELTS READING/WRITING LESSON 9-26-2018

Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use "power words" as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

Section One Vocabulary

Directive: Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Column A	Column B
VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
1. Chivalry (Noun)	A. Of comparatively low grade; poor in quality; substandard. Lower in station, rank, degree, or grade.
2. Feminism (Noun)	B. The combination of qualities expected of an ideal knight, especially courage, honor, justice, and a readiness to help the weak. Courteous behavior, especially towards women.
3. Vulnerable (Adjective)	C. Higher in station, rank, degree, importance, etc.
4. Inferior (Adjective)	D. The doctrine or practice of vigorous action or involvement as a means of achieving political or other goals, sometimes by demonstrations, protests, etc.
5. Superior (Adjective)	E. To behave in an offensively condescending manner toward.
6. Activism (Noun)	F. Sexual character; possession of the structural and functional traits of sex.
7. Sexuality (Noun)	G. To manage or influence skillfully, especially in an unfair manner.
8. Manipulate (Verb)	H. Open to moral attack, criticism, temptation, etc.
9. Patronize (Verb)	I. The doctrine advocating social, political, and all other rights of women equal to those of men.

Section Two

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

ARTICLE A

America Made Me a Feminist

Source

1. I used to think the word "feminist" reeked of insecurity. A woman who needed to state that she was equal to a man might as well be shouting that she was smart or brave. If you were, you wouldn't need to say it. I thought this because back then, I was a Swedish woman.

I was 9 when I first stepped into a Swedish school. Freshly arrived from Czechoslovakia, I was bullied by a boy for being an immigrant. My one friend, a tiny little girl, punched him in the face. I was impressed. In my former country, a bullied girl would tattletale or cry. I looked around to see what my new classmates thought of my friend's feat, but no one seemed to have noticed. It didn't take long to understand that in Sweden, my power was suddenly equal to a boy's.

In Czechoslovakia, women came home from a long day of work to cook, clean and serve their husbands. In return, those women were cajoled, ignored and occasionally abused, much like domestic animals. But they were mentally unstable domestic animals, like milk cows that could go berserk if you didn't know exactly how to handle them.



**Questions:**

- a. Why was the author being bullied by the boy?
- b. In her home country, what were women expected to do when they returned home from work?

2. In Sweden, the housekeeping tasks were equally divided. Soon my own father was cleaning and cooking as well. Why? He had divorced my mother and married a Swedish woman.

As high school approached, the boys wanted to kiss us and touch us, and the girls became a group of benevolent queens dispensing favors. The more the boys wanted us, the more powerful we became. When a girl chose to bestow her favors, the lucky boy was envied and celebrated. Slut shaming? What's a slut?

Summarize the passage



3. Condoms were provided by the school nurse without question. Sex education taught us the dangers of venereal diseases and unwanted pregnancy, but it also focused on fun stuff like masturbation. For a girl to own her sexuality meant she owned her body, she owned herself. Women could do anything men did, but they could also — when they chose to — bear children. And that made us more powerful than men. The word “feminist” felt antiquated; there was no longer a use for it.

When I moved to Paris at 15 to work as a model, the first thing that struck me was how differently the men behaved. They opened doors for me, they wanted to pay for my dinner. They seemed to think I was too delicate, or too stupid, to take care of myself.

Instead of feeling celebrated, I felt patronized. I claimed my power the way I had learned in Sweden: by being sexually assertive. But Frenchmen don't work this way. In discos, I'd set my eye on an attractive stranger, and then dance my way over to let him know he was a chosen one. More often than not, he fled. And when he didn't run, he asked how much I charged.

Questions:

- a. What did sex education teach the author about her self-image as a woman?
- b. What was the difference between Sweden and France, in the way that men reacted to a strong woman?

4. In France, women did have power, but a secret one, like a hidden stiletto knife. It was all about manipulation: the sexy vixen luring the man to do her bidding. It wasn't until I reached the United States, at 18, and fell in love with an American man that I truly had to rearrange my cultural notions.

It turned out most of America didn't think of sex as a healthy habit or a bargaining tool. Instead, it was something secret. If I mentioned masturbation, ears went red. Orgasms? Men made smutty remarks, while women went silent. There was a fine line between the private and the shameful. A former gynecologist spoke of the weather when doing a pelvic exam, as if I were a Victorian maiden who'd rather not know where all my bits were.

Questions:

- a. What was the impact to the author when she moved to America, in the way sex was viewed?
- b. What were the reactions she noticed when sex was mentioned?



5. In America, a woman's body seemed to belong to everybody but herself. Her sexuality belonged to her husband, her opinion of herself belonged to her social circles, and her uterus belonged to the government. She was supposed to be a mother and a lover and a career woman (at a fraction of the pay) while remaining perpetually youthful and slim. In America, important men were desirable. Important women had to be desirable. That got to me.

In the Czech Republic, the nicknames for women, whether sweet or bitter, fall into the animal category: little bug, kitten, old cow, swine. In Sweden, women are rulers of the universe. In France, women are dangerous objects to treasure and fear. For better or worse, in those countries, a woman knows her place.

But the American woman is told she can do anything and then is knocked down the moment she proves it. In adapting myself to my new country, my Swedish woman power began to wilt. I joined the women around me who were struggling to do it all and failing miserably. I now have no choice but to pull the word "feminist" out of the dusty drawer and polish it up.

My name is Paulina Porizkova, and I am a feminist.

Questions:

- What were some of the expectations of a woman in America?
- What is her biggest frustration about being a woman in America?

ARTICLE B

Why Feminism Still Matters to Young People

[Source](#)

- It has been 100 years since women won the right to vote in Britain. More accurately, it's 90 years since young women were able to vote; 2018 actually celebrates 100 years since suffrage was given to women over 30.



Feminism is held up as one of the most successful social movements of the 20th century. But ten years ago, when Catherine Redfern and I were planning our book on reclaiming feminism, some said young people just weren't interested in "the f word" anymore.

Back in the 1990s and early 2000s, young women were portrayed smashing glass ceilings in Louboutin heels, and feminism seemed rather outmoded. Many women thought of themselves as post-feminist, feeling there was no need for feminism, since gender equality had been achieved. But this wasn't really true, and a lot of the fear about calling yourself a feminist came from the negative stereotyping of feminists as bitter "killjoys".

Summarize the passage

- It's still needed
Things have changed. Feminism is now less despised because it's more obviously needed. Women in the UK have been living under a regime of austerity since the 2008 economic crisis. They have shouldered 86% of the income loss from changes to the tax and benefits systems since 2010, simply because they are more likely to be welfare recipients in the first place.

Meanwhile, the resurgence of the far right has led to violence and harassment against ethnic minority women, with Muslim women bearing the brunt of virulent Islamophobia. There is a stubborn gender pay gap (now 14% for full-time workers), and women pensioners in the UK face one of the worst gender income gaps in Europe.

The list goes on: gender-based violence is alarmingly high. Crime statistics show that one in four women, and one in seven men aged 16 to 59 have experience domestic abuse. The most harmful forms of abuse – sexual violence, especially – affect mostly women. Yet



three-quarters of councils have cut funds to domestic violence services due to government budget cuts, and a third of referrals to refuges are now being turned away because of a lack of room.

Questions:

- a. What were the financial impacts to women due to the 2008 economic crisis?
- b. What impact has the resurgence of the far right had on women?
- c. What is the impact to programs that help women suffering from sexual abuse?

3. It's gaining popularity

These examples of gender inequality explain why more people are identifying as feminists – especially young women. A 2013 Girlguiding survey found that 35% of girls and young women aged 11 to 21 were happy to call themselves feminists. In 2017, this was the case for 43% of 18 to 34-year-old women, according to a poll by Plan International, or 54% of 18 to 24-year-old women, according to UM London.

Today's feminist movement is more diverse than ever before. Feminism has become more attentive to the wider range of experiences of those oppressed by gender norms and stereotypes, including men, non-binary and trans people.

There's also greater awareness of the way that racism, anti-religious hatred, disablism or homophobia work alongside sexism, creating complex forms of prejudice and oppression. It's not so much that feminism has moved "beyond" sexism. Rather, a wider range of voices is now being counted as feminist. The HeForShe campaign, which encourages men to become advocates for gender equality, and Muslimah Media Watch, a forum where Muslim women critique how they are presented in the media and popular culture, are examples of this.

Questions:

- a. The feminist movement has become more diversified, true or false.
- b. How do other social issues impact sexism?
- c. What is Muslimah Media Watch?

4. It's already happening

If the current situation has anything positive to show, it's that where there's injustice, there's also resistance. Young people are already challenging the forces feminist author bell hooks calls "white supremacist capitalist patriarchy" with style and skill – they don't need to be told how by older feminists. What's crucial now is to recognize the work they are doing and draw even more people to the cause.

Campaigns such as #TimesUp in the US and #tystnadtagnig in Sweden have used the star power of famous actors – many of whom are young women – to draw a line under sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace, across all industries. Yet even worldwide movements can start with the actions of a single person: activist Tarana Burke has been credited with starting the #metoo movement more than ten years ago, based on her experiences as a youth camp director for Just Be Inc.

Summarize

5. As these examples show, feminist activism takes many forms, from a single person signing a petition, to group protests on local issues such as the campaign to close Yarl's Wood detention center in Bedfordshire, right through to large-scale actions coordinated by women's organizations, such as Women's March. Feminist acts can be taken through formal political routes. For example, by lobbying a local member of parliament, or by informal means, such as sharing information about a topic on social media or boycotting a company known for exploiting women employees.

Individuals can make a difference by working for a women's charity, becoming a local councilor or calling out sexual harassment wherever they encounter it. Even the conversations we have with our friends in our spare time can be a productive way to raise awareness about sexism.



There is no “right” form of activism and no one issue of greatest importance. A century ago, women’s rights activists weren’t all fighting for suffrage – some of them were working on other campaigns, such as equal access to university education, or a decent wage for working-class women. Nor did getting the vote solve other instances of gender injustice. So this 100-year anniversary is about much more than just “the vote”. Feminism is a movement for gender justice, and it needs to be fought by many different people, in many different ways.

Questions:

- a. What forms does feminist activity take?
- b. How can individuals make a difference?
- c. There is one right form of activism that works the best, true or false?

ARTICLE C**Chivalry is a Nod to the Difference Between Sexes**

[Source](#)

1. Many folks chafe at the idea of chivalry because it implies that women are weaker and more vulnerable than men and thus need special protection. It's sexism with a courteous hat tip, or so the argument goes.

Yet a few months ago Congress passed and the president signed (to great fanfare) an extension of the Violence Against Women Act, which allots federal funds to help fight violent crimes against women.

If we can have legislation that implies that men are (generally) physically stronger and women are (generally) more vulnerable and thus require federally mandated protection, is it really wrong, and could it not actually be beneficial, to have some social rituals that serve as a symbol and reminder of these differences between the sexes?

2. Small chivalrous acts like opening a door for a woman are symbolic ways for a man to signal that he recognizes that while men are physically stronger on a whole, he himself intends no harm. Chivalry is not about either the inferiority or the lofty superiority of women. Instead, it can foster mutual respect and remind us of our underlying biological differences and the complementary nature of the sexes. Some women will bear children, and some men will step up to be protectors should danger arise (see the boyfriends who took a bullet for their girlfriends during the Aurora shooting or the firefighters who rushed into the Twin Towers on 9/11). One need not oppose the strides toward equality we've taken to honestly acknowledge and appreciate this fact.

In a gender-neutral modern world, chivalric acts are non-onerous rituals that faintly echo our relationship to each other when all the layers of civilization are stripped away; they serve to remind us that we need and should respect, appreciate and quite frankly enjoy each other.