

Finnish woman, 34, to be world's youngest prime minister

11th December, 2019



A 34-year-old woman is to become the youngest prime minister in the world. The new leader is Sanna Marin. She only celebrated her 34th birthday last week. She became the head of the Finnish Social Democrats Party last

week. Members of her party voted for her in an election on Sunday. She received 32 of the 61 votes to become chairperson of her party. Ms Marin was the minister of transport and communications in Finland. She will take over as Finland's prime minister after her former boss announced that he would be stepping down. The ex-prime minister, 57-year-old Antti Rinne, announced last week that he was quitting. Marin will be the youngest prime minister in Finland's history.

Sanna Marin said she is very excited at the prospect of leading her country. She said: "There's a lot of work to be done. First, we'll have to call a meeting between the ruling parties and review the government program. We have a joint government program which glues the coalition together." She added that one of her first jobs is to increase the popularity of her party with the Finnish people, saying: "We have a lot of work ahead to rebuild trust." Marin will lead a coalition government. All of the other four leaders in the coalition are also women. Marin is a new kind of leader. She shares photos of her private, social and political life on her Instagram page.

Sources: helsinkitimes.fi / rt.com / reuters.com

Writing

A good national leader should be over 60 years old. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

a 34-year-old / prime minister / leader / party / voted / chairperson / boss / quit / excited / prospect / meeting / program / popularity / trust / coalition / private / social

True / False

- a) The new Finnish leader will celebrate her 35th birthday next week. T / F
- b) The leader got over 75% of the vote in an election to be chairperson. T / F
- c) Ms Marin was minister for education. T / F
- d) Ms Marin is the youngest leader in Finland's history. T / F
- e) Ms Marin said she is worried about becoming leader. T / F
- f) The first thing Ms Marin will do is to call a meeting. T / F
- g) Ms Marin said she needs to restore her party's trust with the people. T / F
- h) Ms Marin is a very private person and does not use social media. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. leader | a. ex- |
| 2. voted for | b. possibilities |
| 3. received | c. personal |
| 4. former | d. elected |
| 5. quitting | e. in the future |
| 6. prospect | f. resigning |
| 7. review | g. union |
| 8. ahead | h. head |
| 9. coalition | i. study |
| 10. private | j. got |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are you excited at the prospect of?
- c) Who is the world's best leader?
- d) Who is the world's worst leader?
- e) What would you do if you were leader of your country?
- f) What world leader would you most like to meet?
- g) Should a world leader share photos of their private life on Instagram?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Sanna Marin?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. celebrated her | a. boss |
| 2. She received 32 of the 61 | b. the ruling parties |
| 3. her former | c. at the prospect |
| 4. stepping | d. 34th birthday |
| 5. announced last week that he | e. trust |
| 6. she is very excited | f. down |
| 7. There's a lot of work | g. votes |
| 8. call a meeting between | h. together |
| 9. glues the coalition | i. was quitting |
| 10. a lot of work ahead to rebuild | j. to be done |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of a 34-year-old national leader?
- What do you think of the leader of your country?
- What is the best age for a country's leader?
- What is the difference between a prime minister and a president?
- Do you like voting in elections?
- What kind of person should a prime minister be?
- What did / will you do on your 34th birthday?
- What advice do you have for Sanna Marin?

Spelling

- The new rdelae
- celrtdabee her 34th birthday
- voted for her in an ineotecl
- minister of transport and mnmcuaostoiicn
- her mrrefo boss
- ocduanne last week
- she is very excited at the porpesct
- a meeting between the rginul parties
- increase the uopprtyial of her party
- a lot of work ahead to rebuild tsurt
- Marin will lead a naoticoli government
- social and opiitcal life

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Youth

You think youth is the most important things for a leader to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): charisma, intelligence or ideas.

Role B – Charisma

You think charisma is the most important things for a leader to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): youth, intelligence or ideas.

Role C – Intelligence

You think intelligence is the most important things for a leader to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): charisma, youth or ideas.

Role D – Ideas

You think having ideas is the most important things for a leader to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): charisma, intelligence or youth.

Speaking – National Leader

Rank these with your partner. Put the best important thing for a national leader to have at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • good looks | • charisma |
| • intelligence | • experience |
| • youth | • ideas |
| • a strong will | • education |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.