

Kenya's First Lady runs amok (Thu 5 May, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics look most interesting:

terrible behaviour / good manners / self control / being very angry / slapping someone in the face / psychiatric help / embarrassing family members / first ladies / the mainstream press

Have a chat about the ones you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

FIRST LADY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with first ladies. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

EMBARRASSING: Do you have any embarrassing family members? Is anyone in your family a little (or very) strange? Talk with your partner about these relatives, their personalities, and the embarrassing or shocking things they have done or still do.

BAD BEHAVIOUR: Look at the following list of bad behaviour. With a partner, look in a dictionary to find the meaning of any words you do not know. (1) In pairs / groups, talk about whether you or a family member has acted in such badly behaved fashion:

- spitting at people
- kicking someone
- shouting at someone
- farting or belching loudly
- throwing wine over someone
- using foul language
- poking someone with a finger
- pulling someone's hair
- screaming insults at someone
- slapping someone in the face

(2) Ask your partner what he/she would think if anyone he/she knew was badly behaved (e.g. grandmother / boss / best friend / yourself / brother or sister / mother / father etc).

An example question: *What would you think if your grandmother slapped someone in the face?*

FIRST LADY OPINIONS: Ask your partner if he/she agrees or disagrees with these opinions about Kenya's First Lady Kibaki and first ladies in general. Does your partner strongly agree/disagree?

- a. Fantastic. It's wonderful to see such a high profile figure making a fool of herself.
- b. First ladies are not elected. They should have no public role.
- c. First Lady Kibaki has shamed her country.
- d. Ms Kibaki only wanted to sleep. Her neighbours were too noisy
- e. First Lady Kibaki should be arrested for slapping a cameraman.
- f. President Mwai Kibaki should apologize for his wife's behaviour.
- g. Sounds like Ms Kibaki needs psychiatric help / counseling.
- h. A first lady should behave perfectly at all times.
- i. Having a first lady is better than having a Queen.

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PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'first' and 'lady'.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Kenya's First Lady, Lucy Kibaki, has been writing newspaper headlines. T / F
- b. Ms Kibaki ran a marathon in Nairobi on May 1. T / F
- c. There was angry because the World Bank wouldn't give her any money. T / F
- d. Lucy's children managed to calm her down. T / F
- e. Ms Kibaki loves Kenya's tabloid newspapers. T / F
- f. She slapped a cameraman in the face. T / F
- g. Ms Kibaki is very good at telling jokes. T / F
- h. A newspaper suggested she needed counseling. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|-------------|
| a. | these past few days | went crazy |
| b. | brought shame on | counseling |
| c. | ran amok | anger |
| d. | pacify | deep |
| e. | fury | behaviour |
| f. | profound | recently |
| g. | conduct | embarrassed |
| h. | psychiatric help | calm |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a. | making | insults at |
| b. | she has brought | into his home |
| c. | Ms Kibaki lost | shame on their country |
| d. | she stormed | press |
| e. | shouted | her self control |
| f. | negative | newspaper headlines |
| g. | increased her | a joke |
| h. | mainstream | fury |
| i. | The first lady has become | disgust |
| j. | express our profound | reports |

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READING:

SYNONYM FILL: There are six gaps in the article. There are six groups of synonyms below the article. Place the number of the synonym group in the correct gap. It is not important to guess a correct word - any of the synonyms from each group could be put into the relevant gap.

Kenya's First Lady runs amok

BNE: Kenya's First Lady, Lucy Kibaki, has been making newspaper headlines these past few days. Her recent terrible behaviour has shocked many Kenyans, who believe she has brought _____ on their country. Ms Kibaki lost her self control and _____ in Nairobi on May 1. She shouted and screamed at journalists and diplomats to respect her family. Her first victim was Kenya's World Bank director Makhtar Diop. She stormed into his home at midnight and demanded he turn his music down. She also shouted insults at his mother. Her own two children, guests at the party, were unable to _____ her anger.

The negative reports she received in the Kenyan press the next day increased her _____. She accused the nation's media of being "_____ mainstream press". She hurried to the pressroom of the Nation newspaper and for five hours she furiously scolded news reporters. She demanded one be arrested for writing lies about her and slapped a cameraman in the face. The first lady has become a joke in the media and with Kenyans. The Standard newspaper used five pages reporting her escapades. Its editorial stated: "We wish to express our profound disgust at the _____ of the First Lady." It also suggested she seek psychiatric help.

1
fury
anger
madness
ire

2
conduct
behaviour
manners
demeanor

3
ran amok
went berserk
lost it
ran riot

4
nasty
horrid
awful
gross

5
shame
disgrace
dishonor
humiliation

6
pacify
calm
tame
subdue

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DISCUSSION

- a. What did you think of this article?
- b. What adjective describes your feelings about the news in this article?
- c. Which events in this article surprised you?
- d. What do you think of Ms Kibaki's behaviour?
- e. What would you think if First Lady Laura Bush acted in the same way as Ms Kibaki?
- f. Should Ms Kibaki be punished for her bad behaviour?
- g. Is it OK to try and stop someone's party because the music is too loud?
- h. What should be the role of a first lady?
- i. Does Ms Kibaki have too much power?
- j. What should her husband do about her actions?
- k. What should the cameraman she slapped do about her actions?
- l. Should the press always be kind to first ladies?
- m. What do you think, or know, of other first ladies around the world?
- n. Ms Kibaki just wanted to sleep. Is this such a bad thing?
- o. Are the politicians and their spouses / partners well behaved in your country?
- p. Did you like this discussion?
- q. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on the Lucy Kibaki story. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.
- 3. MY WORST:** Write a story about the worst example of you behaving badly. Share it with your classmates in your next lesson to see what they think.
- 4. KENYAN CITIZEN:** Imagine you are a Kenyan citizen. Write a letter to Lucy Kibaki telling her how you feel about her behaviour and reminding her of how she should behave in public. Show your classmates what you wrote in your next lesson.

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SPEAKING:

BAD BEHAVIOUR: In pairs / groups, (1) Ask each other about whether you know or have met anyone who has very bad behaviour? (2) Role play a counselor / psychiatrist and a patient who behaves badly. For example -

- a. Someone who has a very bad temper.
- b. Someone who often runs amok and cannot keep his/her self control.
- c. Someone who always gets drunk and uses foul language.
- d. Someone who continually brings shame on his or her family.
- e. Someone who storms around the house screaming and shouting.
- f. Someone who often slaps others around the face.
- g. Someone whose actions often make him/her a joke.
- h. Someone whose conduct in public places is very bad.

TEXT

Kenya's First Lady runs amok

BNE: Kenya's First Lady, Lucy Kibaki, has been making newspaper headlines these past few days. Her recent terrible behaviour has shocked many Kenyans, who believe she has brought shame on their country. Ms Kibaki lost her self control and ran amok in Nairobi on May 1. She shouted and screamed at journalists and diplomats to respect her family. Her first victim was Kenya's World Bank director Makhtar Diop. She stormed into his home at midnight and demanded he turn his music down. She also shouted insults at his mother. Her own two children, guests at the party, were unable to pacify her anger.

The negative reports she received in the Kenyan press the next day increased her fury. She accused the nation's media of being "nasty mainstream press". She hurried to the pressroom of the Nation newspaper and for five hours she furiously scolded news reporters. She demanded one be arrested for writing lies about her and slapped a cameraman in the face. The first lady has become a joke in the media and with Kenyans. The Standard newspaper used five pages reporting her escapades. Its editorial stated: "We wish to express our profound disgust at the conduct of the First Lady." It also suggested she seek psychiatric help.