

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

“1,000 Ideas & Activities For Language Teachers”

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

URL: http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0510/051026-rosa_parks.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading	7
Discussion	8
Speaking	9
Homework	10
Answers	11

26 October, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the mother of America's civil rights movement, has died aged 92. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus sparked a revolution in the US civil rights movement. She was one of the first people to actively challenge America's segregation laws, both in deed and in court. Ms Parks reportedly passed away in her sleep at her home in Detroit. The actual cause of death is as yet unknown. She had been suffering from progressive dementia in recent years and was rarely seen in public. The mayor of Detroit hailed her courage and strength and said she symbolized the civil rights movement, which gained increasing momentum in the late 1950s and 1960s. He said: "Just by a simple act of sitting down she stood up for so many people."

Ms Parks was a 42-year-old seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, when she caught a bus in December 1955. Shortly after, a white man boarded and had to stand. The law required black passengers to make room for white passengers. Ms Parks refused to comply with the bus driver's demands for her to move, saying: "No. I'm tired of being treated like a second-class citizen." She was convicted of breaking the law and fined \$10. Her action sparked a now famous bus boycott that lasted 381 days. Simultaneous legal challenges led to a Supreme Court decision that forced Montgomery to desegregate its bus system and quashed other discriminatory laws throughout America's South. In 1999, the US Senate described her as "a living icon for freedom in America."

WARM-UPS

1. GREAT PERSON: Choose a great person in the world today. You are now that person. Walk around the class meeting the other “great people”. Introduce yourselves and chat about your lives, achievements and greatness. Which of you is greater?

2. FAMOUS AMERICANS: Below is a list of famous Americans. What do you know about them? Walk around the class and ask other students about them. After you have finished, sit down and share your findings. What interesting things did you find out?

- Rosa Parks
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Colin Powell
- Malcolm X
- Jesse Owens
- Maya Angelou
- Michael Jackson
- Condoleezza Rice

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Mothers / civil rights / white men / buses / revolutions / courts / old age / icons / death / courage / strength / second-class citizens / boycotts / freedom

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

4. CIVIL RIGHTS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with civil rights. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. DISCRIMINATION: Have you ever been discriminated against? In pairs / groups, talk about how you would feel about suffering from the following forms of discrimination. How do you think each type of discrimination affects people’s feelings and lives?

- Racism
- Sexism
- Ageism
- Disability discrimination
- Religious discrimination
- Sexual orientation discrimination
- Size, weigh and looks discrimination
- Pregnancy discrimination

6. PREJUDICE: Does prejudice exist in your country? Describe it to your partner(s). In pairs / groups, talk about the kinds of prejudice you know about or have heard about around the world. Here are some countries you might want to talk about: Great Britain, America, Japan, China, France, Australia, India, South Africa, Brazil, Sudan...

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

- a. Rosa Parks was the grandmother of America's civil rights movement. T / F
- b. She was one of the first people to challenge segregation in the 1950s. T / F
- c. She had recently made a string of public appearances. T / F
- d. Her simple act of standing up helped many people to sit down. T / F
- e. She asked a white man on a bus if she could sit on his seat. T / F
- f. U.S. law required black passengers to give their seats to white people. T / F
- g. She was arrested and imprisoned for 381 days. T / F
- h. The US Senate described her as an icon for freedom in America. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a. refusal | symbol |
| b. sparked | acclaimed |
| c. deed | ignited |
| d. hailed | impetus |
| e. momentum | annulled |
| f. boarded | obey |
| g. comply | noncompliance |
| h. simultaneous | got on |
| i. quashed | coinciding |
| j. icon | action |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. sparked | like a second-class citizen |
| b. actively challenge | and had to stand |
| c. She had been suffering | its bus system |
| d. gained increasing | America's segregation laws |
| e. she stood up | from progressive dementia |
| f. a white man boarded | a revolution |
| g. I'm tired of being treated | momentum in the late 1950s |
| h. sparked a now famous bus | laws throughout America's South |
| i. forced Montgomery to desegregate | for so many people |
| j. quashed other discriminatory | boycott that lasted 381 days |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

ODD WORD OUT: Strike through the incorrect choice in each group of three *italicized* words.

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the mother of America's civil rights *crusade / tendency / movement*, has died aged 92. Her *refusal / refuse / refusing* to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus *sparked / ignited / matched* a revolution in the US civil rights movement. She was one of the first people to actively challenge America's segregation laws, both in *indeed / action / deed* and in court. Ms Parks reportedly passed away in her sleep at her home in Detroit. The actual cause of death is as unknown. She had been suffering from progressive dementia in recent years and was rarely seen in public. The mayor of Detroit *hailed / exacerbated / exalted* her *courage / backbone / coarseness* and strength and said she symbolized the civil rights movement, which gained increasing *momentum / momentous / pace* in the late 1950s and 1960s. He said: "Just by a *sample / simple / mere* act of sitting down she stood up for so many people."

Ms Parks was a 42-year-old seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, when she caught a bus in December 1955. Shortly after, a white man *hopped on / climbed down / boarded* and had to stand. The law required black passengers to make *room / way / up* for white passengers. Ms Parks refused *to conform / confound / comply* with the bus driver's demands for her to move, saying: "No. I'm tired of being treated like a second-class citizen." She was *found guilty / convicted / accosted* of breaking the law and fined \$10. Her action sparked a now famous bus *boycott / shut out / journey* that lasted 381 days. Simultaneous legal challenges led to a Supreme Court decision that forced Montgomery to *desegregate / integrate / disintegrate* its bus system and *quashed / quelled / annulled* other discriminatory laws throughout America's South. In 1999, the US Senate described her as "a living *icon / symbol / statue* for freedom in America."

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the mother of America's civil rights _____, has died aged 92. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus _____ a revolution in the US civil rights movement. She was one of the first people to actively challenge America's _____ laws, both _____ and in court. Ms Parks reportedly passed away in her sleep at her home in Detroit. The actual cause of death is as yet unknown. She had been suffering from progressive _____ in recent years and was rarely seen in public. The mayor of Detroit hailed her courage and strength and said she symbolized the civil rights movement, which gained increasing _____ in the late 1950s and 1960s. He said: "Just by a simple act of sitting down she _____ _____ so many people."

Ms Parks was a 42-year-old seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, when she caught a bus in December 1955. Shortly after, a white man _____ and had to stand. The law required black passengers to _____ _____ white passengers. Ms Parks refused to _____ with the bus driver's demands for her to move, saying: "No. I'm tired of being treated like a second-class citizen." She was convicted of breaking the law and _____ \$10. Her action sparked a now famous bus _____ that lasted 381 days. Simultaneous legal challenges led to a Supreme Court decision that forced Montgomery to desegregate its bus system and _____ other discriminatory laws throughout America's South. In 1999, the US Senate described her as "a living icon for freedom in America."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words **'civil'** and **'rights'**.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. ODD WORD OUT: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "CIVIL RIGHTS" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about Rosa Parks and civil rights.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • mother | • shortly |
| • sparked | • boarded |
| • deed | • tired |
| • suffering | • famous |
| • symbolized | • quashed |
| • simple | • US Senate |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What do you know about Rosa Parks?
- c. What do you think about her action in 1955?
- d. Which people stood up for others in your country?
- e. What do you know of America's civil rights movement in the 1960s?
- f. Does everyone have equal civil rights in your country?
- g. Does your country have a civil rights movement?
- h. What does Rosa Parks' example teach us?
- i. Do you think America should designate a special Rosa Parks Day holiday?
- j. Have you ever stood up for your rights?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. What kinds of prejudice exist in your country?
- d. Do you totally believe that everyone is the same regardless of the color of their skin?
- e. Have you ever felt like you were treated like a second-class citizen?
- f. What experiences do you have of experiencing or witnessing racism?
- g. What are the good and bad things that different races have done throughout history, or are doing now?
- h. What question would you like to have asked Rosa Parks?
- i. What do you think her reply would have been?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

DISCRIMINATION: You are part of the department to educate the people in your country about discrimination and to help eradicate it in all forms. Write the manifestations of each type of discrimination in the middle column and solutions to eradicate each case in the right hand column.

	MANIFESTATION	SOLUTIONS
Racism		
Sexism		
Ageism		
Disability discrimination		
Religious discrimination		
Sexual orientation discrimination		

Change partners and discuss what you talked about earlier. Compare your ideas.

Decide together on the points that you think would be most effective in reducing discrimination in your society.

Give a presentation on your points to the rest of the class. Vote on the best one.

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 more information on Rosa Parks. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. INEQUALITY: Make a poster describing the inequality in your country. Describe the measures that need to be taken to eliminate inequality. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all write similar things?

4. ANOTHER RACE: Write an essay describing the accomplishments of a race that is different from your own. Show what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. T c. F d. F e. F f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. refusal	noncompliance
b. sparked	ignited
c. deed	action
d. hailed	acclaimed
e. momentum	impetus
f. boarded	got on
g. comply	obey
h. simultaneous	coinciding
i. quashed	annulled
j. icon	symbol

PHRASE MATCH:

a. sparked	a revolution
b. actively challenge	America's segregation laws
c. She had been suffering	from progressive dementia
d. gained increasing	momentum in the late 1950s
e. she stood up	for so many people
f. a white man boarded	and had to stand
g. I'm tired of being treated	like a second-class citizen
h. sparked a now famous bus	boycott that lasted 381 days
i. forced Montgomery to desegregate	its bus system
j. quashed other discriminatory	laws throughout America's South

ODD WORD OUT:

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the mother of America's civil rights *crusade* / ~~tendency~~ / *movement*, has died aged 92. Her *refusal* / ~~refuse~~ / *refusing* to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus *sparked* / *ignited* / ~~matched~~ a revolution in the US civil rights movement. She was one of the first people to actively challenge America's segregation laws, both in ~~indeed~~ / *action* / *deed* and in court. Ms Parks reportedly passed away in her sleep at her home in Detroit. The actual cause of death is as yet unknown. She had been suffering from progressive dementia in recent years and was rarely seen in public. The mayor of Detroit *hailed* / ~~exacerbated~~ / *exalted* her *courage* / *backbone* / ~~coarseness~~ and strength and said she symbolized the civil rights movement, which gained increasing *momentum* / ~~momentous~~ / *pace* in the late 1950s and 1960s. He said: "Just by a ~~sample~~ / *simple* / *mere* act of sitting down she stood up for so many people."

Ms Parks was a 42-year-old seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, when she caught a bus in December 1955. Shortly after, a white man *hopped on* / ~~climbed down~~ / *boarded* and had to stand. The law required black passengers to make *room* / *way* / ~~up~~ for white passengers. Ms Parks refused to *conform* / ~~confound~~ / *comply* with the bus driver's demands for her to move, saying: "No. I'm tired of being treated like a second-class citizen." She was *found guilty* / *convicted* / ~~accosted~~ of breaking the law and fined \$10. Her action sparked a now famous bus *boycott* / *shut out* / ~~journey~~ that lasted 381 days. Simultaneous legal challenges led to a Supreme Court decision that forced Montgomery to *desegregate* / *integrate* / ~~disintegrate~~ its bus system and *quashed* / ~~quelled~~ / *annulled* other discriminatory laws throughout America's South. In 1999, the US Senate described her as "a living *icon* / *symbol* / ~~statue~~ for freedom in America."