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Hillary Clinton "in to win" US presidency

URL: http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0701/070122-hillary_clinton.html

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Article by Sean Banville	
Ideas and Activities by David Robinson	

22 January, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Hillary Clinton "in to win" US presidency

Hillary Clinton has announced she will campaign to become the next president of the United States. If she is successful, she will be the first woman to be president. She has, of course, lived in the White House before, when her husband Bill Clinton served as president from 1993 to 2001. Ms Clinton told the nation of her decision to run for president in a videotaped message posted on her Web site. She told her party and the nation: "I'm in, and I'm in to win." In the webcast, she said: "I'm not just starting a campaign, though, I am beginning a conversation with you, with America." She added. "Let's talk. Let's chat. The conversation in Washington has been just a little one-sided lately, don't you think?" She also spoke of the challenges she wanted to tackle – health care, the economy and ending the Iraq War in the "right" way.

Clinton has entered an interesting race to be Democratic candidate for the presidency. Barack Obama, the Democratic senator for Illinois, has also declared his intention to run. He would be the first ever black president if he wins. However, it seems, at the moment, that most of the cards may be stacked in Clinton's favor. She has a lot of experience in politics, including serving for eight years as First Lady and being senator for New York. She also knows a thing or two about winning against the Republicans. She wrote on her webcast: "I have never been afraid to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican machine." She continued: "After...two landslide wins [in New York], I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate and how to beat them." Her celebrity status and huge network of supporters and financial backers may help her to win.

WARM-UPS

1. HILLARY CLINTON: Walk round the class. Find out what everyone knows about her? Who is she? Where does she come from? What has she been doing recently? What jobs has she done? What are her ambitions? Find out as much as you can. Change partners often to build up your information.

2. DICTATION: The teacher will read the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. With your partner(s) try to recreate the text.

Self correct your work. Compare your work with your partner(s) and try to recreate the full text. Listen again to check, fill in spaces or correct mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total no of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 are acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

3. READING: Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

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

5. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting (circle) and which are most boring (underline).

Hillary Clinton / Democrats/ US President / The White House / in to win / campaigns / chatting / health care / cards / Washington / Republicans

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

6. QUICK DEBATE: Students A believe Hillary Clinton will be a great US president. Students B believe she'll be no different than other US presidents. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

7. THE US PRESIDENCY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the US Presidency. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

8. FIVE MINUTES: Choose six of these words. Write three sentences using two words in each. Try to associate them with the school leaving age. Discuss with your partner. Spend five minutes on this exercise.

9. SENTENCE STARTERS: With your partner(s), finish these sentence starters. Change partner(s) and talk about the sentences you made.

- a) Hillary Clinton _____
- b) The US press _____
- c) The Republicans _____
- d) The Democrats _____
- e) Bill Clinton _____
- f) The Iraq War _____
- g) Webcasts are _____
- h) Barack Obama _____

10. OPINIONS: Swap partners. In pairs discuss which of the following Democratic candidates might win the Democrats nomination in the battle for the race to the White House:

- Hillary Clinton
- Barack Obama – A mixed-race senator from Illinois. He became famous at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.
- Bill Richardson, governor of the US state of New Mexico. He was US ambassador to the United Nations under Bill Clinton then became his secretary of energy.
- Al Gore – Vice president for eight years under Bill Clinton and the loser of the most controversial presidential election in more than a century, against George W Bush in 2000.
- Joe Biden – from the mid-Atlantic state of Delaware. One of the Senate's leading foreign-policy heavyweights.
- John Edwards - Former lawyer and one-term North Carolina senator. He ran for vice-president with John Kerry in 2004. He currently runs an anti-poverty centre. He declared his White House ambition at the end of 2006
- Your choice

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

- a. Ms Clinton could become the first ever female US President. T / F
- b. She announced her decision to stand on a televised US chat show. T / F
- c. She said she wants to have a conversation with America. T / F
- d. She wants to send extra US troops to the Iraq War. T / F
- e. Her competitor is a man who may be the first black president. T / F
- f. Ms Clinton has very little experience in politics. T / F
- g. Until now, Ms Clinton has been afraid to stand up for her beliefs. T / F
- h. She is good at beating the Republicans in elections. T / F

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

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. campaign | work |
| b. served | take care of |
| c. nation | worked |
| d. one-sided | piled |
| e. tackle | contender |
| f. candidate | run for office |
| g. intention | victories |
| h. stacked | unfair |
| i. wins | plan |
| j. operate | country |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. she will be the first | up for what I believe in |
| b. Ms Clinton told the nation of her | sided |
| c. a videotaped message | an interesting race |
| d. a little one- | be stacked in Clinton's favor |
| e. she wanted to tackle | posted on her Web site |
| f. Clinton has entered | or two about winning |
| g. most of the cards may | decision to run for president |
| h. She also knows a thing | and financial backers |
| i. afraid to stand | health care |
| j. huge network of supporters | woman to be president |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps.

Hillary Clinton "in to win" US presidency

Hillary Clinton has announced she will _____ to become the next _____ of the United States. If she is successful, she will be the first woman to be president. She has, of course, lived in the White House before, when her _____ Bill Clinton served as president from 1993 to 2001. Ms Clinton told the nation of her decision to run for president in a videotaped message posted on her Web site. She told her party and the _____: "I'm in, and I'm in to win." In the webcast, she said: "I'm not just starting a _____, though, I am beginning a conversation with you, with America." She added. "Let's talk. Let's chat. The conversation in Washington has been just a little one-sided lately, don't you think?" She also spoke of the _____ she wanted to _____ - health care, the _____ and ending the Iraq War in the "right" way.

tackle
challenges
president
economy
nation
campaign
husband
campaign

Clinton has entered an interesting _____ to be Democratic candidate for the presidency. Barack Obama, the Democratic _____ for Illinois, has also declared his intention to run. He would be the first ever black president if he wins. However, it seems, at the moment, that most of the cards may be stacked in Clinton's favor. She has a lot of _____ in politics, including serving for eight years as _____ and being senator for New York. She also knows a thing or two about winning against the Republicans. She wrote on her _____: "I have never been afraid to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican _____." She continued: "After...two _____ wins [in New York], I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate and how to beat them." Her celebrity status and huge network of _____ and financial backers may help her to win.

senator
webcast
landslide
experience
supporters
First Lady
machine
race

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Hillary Clinton "in to win" US presidency

Hillary Clinton has _____ campaign to become the next president of the United States. If _____, she will be the first woman to be president. She has, _____, lived in the White House before, when her husband Bill Clinton served as president from 1993 to 2001. Ms Clinton told the nation of her decision to run for president in a videotaped message posted on her Web site. She told her party and the nation: "I'm in, and _____." In the webcast, she said: "I'm not just starting a campaign, though, I am beginning a _____, with America." She added. "Let's talk. Let's chat. The conversation in Washington has been _____ one-sided lately, don't you think?" She also spoke of the challenges she wanted to tackle – health care, the economy and ending the Iraq War _____ "_____ " way.

Clinton has entered an _____ to be Democratic candidate for the presidency. Barack Obama, the Democratic senator for Illinois, has also declared his _____. He would be the first ever black president if he wins. However, it seems, at the moment, that most of the cards may be stacked in Clinton's favor. She has _____ in politics, including serving for eight years as First Lady and being senator for New York. She also knows _____ about winning against the Republicans. She wrote on her webcast: "I have _____ to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican machine." She continued: "After...two _____ [in New York], I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate and how to beat them." Her celebrity status and huge network of supporters and financial backers _____ win.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

- 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. GAP FILL: 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. STUDENT "U.S. PRESIDENCY" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about the U.S Presidency.

- 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.

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| • announced | • race |
| • White House | • black |
| • posted | • cards |
| • beginning | • stand up |
| • one-sided | • landslide |
| • the right way | • backers |

DISCUSSION

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

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Did anything in the article surprise you?
- c. Do you think Hillary Clinton can win the Democratic nomination?
- d. Do you think she can win the Presidential election?
- e. Why do you think she wants to be President of the USA?
- f. What advice would you give her?
- g. If you were Bill Clinton what help/advice would you give her?
- h. Would you like to be the US President?
- i. What do you think of the other Democratic candidates?
- j. Has Hillary entered the race too early?

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 chance has Barack Obama got of winning this race?
- d. Would you vote for Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama?
- e. Do you like Hillary Clinton?
- f. Do you think a female President would change America?
- g. Do you think the Republicans should be afraid of Hillary?
- h. Do you always stand up for what you believe in?
- i. Are the cards always stacked up in your favour in life?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

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

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

ROLE PLAY: 1: PRESS:

'Exclusive' CNN TV interview with Hillary Clinton

STUDENT A. Imagine you are Larry King, the CNN chat show host. You have an 'exclusive' interview with Hillary Clinton. Prepare five questions you want to ask her about her ambitions to be the next US President.

STUDENT B. You are Hillary Clinton. Think of five things (write them down) you want to mention to the world about your decision to stand as a Democratic candidate for the Presidency. Use these in the interview with student A.

ROLE PLAY: Student A asks Student B his/her questions. Listen to their response. React to comments made.

The teacher will select some students to role play their situations in front of the class.

ROLE PLAY: 2: TV DEBATE:

A discussion on who will be the Democratic candidate in the next US Presidential elections.

With your partner(s), decide on what you will say in the role play.

Role A – Hillary Clinton

You are Hillary Clinton. You have ambition. You want to be the next US President. You have financial backing. As a senator you have experience in addition to being First Lady for eight years. The other candidates are NOT as good as you.

Role B – Barack Obama

You are Barack Obama. You want to be the first black US President. You are young. You too have ambition. You believe it is time for a change in politics. Hillary will be the same as her husband Bill. You understand America.

Role C – A fed-up Republican supporter

You are considering voting Democrat at the next election. You have been a lifelong Republican. You hate George Bush. You think he has damaged America with his policies. You are not sure Hillary and Barack have the answers.

Role D – An American Democrat supporter

You want a new President and fast. You think the war in Iraq is crazy. You used to be a Bill Clinton supporter. At this moment you are undecided who to vote for. Ask everyone about health care, the economy and the Iraq War.

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Choose the correct words from a – d below and write them in the article.

Hillary Clinton has announced she will (1) _____ to become the next president of the United States. If she is (2) _____, she will be the first woman to be president. She has, of course, lived in the (3) _____ House before, when her husband Bill Clinton (4) _____ as president from 1993 to 2001. Ms Clinton told the (5) _____ of her decision to run for president in a videotaped message posted on her Web site. She told her party and the nation: "I'm in, and I'm in to win." In the webcast, she said: "I'm not just starting a campaign, though, I am beginning a (6) _____ with you, with America." She added. "Let's talk. Let's chat. The conversation in Washington has been just a little one-sided lately, don't you think?" She also spoke of the challenges she wanted to (7) _____ - health care, the economy and ending the Iraq War in the "right" way.

Clinton has entered an interesting (8) _____ to be Democratic candidate for the presidency. Barack Obama, the Democratic senator for Illinois, has also declared his intention to run. He would be the first ever black president if he wins. However, it seems, at the moment, that most of the cards may be (9) _____ in Clinton's favor. She has a (10) _____ of experience in politics, including serving for eight years as First Lady and being senator for New York. She also knows a thing or two about (11) _____ against the Republicans. She wrote on her webcast: "I have never been afraid to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican machine." She continued: "After...two landslide wins [in New York], I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate and how to (12) _____ them." Her celebrity status and huge network of supporters and financial backers may help her to win.

1.	(a)	campaigns	(b)	campaign	(c)	camp	(d)	champagne
2.	(a)	successful	(b)	succeed	(c)	success	(d)	successfully
3.	(a)	Red	(b)	White	(c)	Green	(d)	Yellow
4.	(a)	serving	(b)	serves	(c)	service	(d)	served
5.	(a)	nation	(b)	national	(c)	nationality	(d)	nationalize
6.	(a)	converse	(b)	conversation	(c)	chatting	(d)	chats
7.	(a)	dive	(b)	head	(c)	score	(d)	tackle
8.	(a)	run	(b)	race	(c)	racing	(d)	relay
9.	(a)	unstuck	(b)	stick	(c)	stacked	(d)	stocked
10.	(a)	few	(b)	little	(c)	lot	(d)	lots
11.	(a)	winning	(b)	winner	(c)	win	(d)	won
12.	(a)	hit	(b)	beat	(c)	win	(d)	beaten

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. HILLARY CLINTON: Search the Internet and find more information about her. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: Write an article for the *New York Times* newspaper about Hillary Clinton's announcement that she will stand as a Democratic candidate in the race for the US Presidency. Interview some people (imagine) to find out their view. Include other candidates. (Minimum 100 words) Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

4. LETTER: Write a letter to Hillary Clinton. Tell her your thoughts on her chances of winning. Ask her three questions. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions. Which letter did you like best and why?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. campaign	run for office
b. served	worked
c. nation	country
d. one-sided	unfair
e. tackle	take care of
f. candidate	contender
g. intention	plan
h. stacked	piled
i. wins	victories
j. operate	work

PHRASE MATCH:

a. she will be the first	woman to be president
b. Ms Clinton told the nation of her	decision to run for president
c. a videotaped message	posted on her Web site
d. a little one-	sided
e. she wanted to tackle	health care
f. Clinton has entered	an interesting race
g. most of the cards may	be stacked in Clinton's favor
h. She also knows a thing	or two about winning
i. afraid to stand	up for what I believe in
j. huge network of supporters	and financial backers

GAP FILL:

Hillary Clinton "in to win" US presidency

Hillary Clinton has announced she will **campaign** to become the next **president** of the United States. If she is successful, she will be the first woman to be president. She has, of course, lived in the White House before, when her **husband** Bill Clinton served as president from 1993 to 2001. Ms Clinton told the nation of her decision to run for president in a videotaped message posted on her Web site. She told her party and the **nation**: "I'm in, and I'm in to win." In the webcast, she said: "I'm not just starting a **campaign**, though, I am beginning a conversation with you, with America." She added. "Let's talk. Let's chat. The conversation in Washington has been just a little one-sided lately, don't you think?" She also spoke of the **challenges** she wanted to **tackle** – health care, the **economy** and ending the Iraq War in the "right" way.

Clinton has entered an interesting **race** to be Democratic **candidate** for the presidency. Barack Obama, the Democratic senator for Illinois, has also declared his intention to run. He would be the first ever black president if he wins. However, it seems, at the moment, that most of the cards may be stacked in Clinton's favor. She has a lot of **experience** in politics, including serving for eight years as **First Lady** and being senator for New York. She also knows a thing or two about winning against the Republicans. She wrote on her **webcast**: "I have never been afraid to stand up for what I believe in or to face down the Republican **machine**." She continued: "After...two **landslide** wins [in New York], I can say I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate and how to beat them." Her celebrity status and huge network of **supporters** and financial backers may help her to win.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - b 2 - a 3 - b 4 - d 5 - a 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - c 10 - c 11 - a 12 - b