

Tennis legend Serena Williams plays her final match

5th September, 2022



One of sport's greatest ever legends has played her final professional match. Serena Williams bowed out of the US Open tennis tournament on Friday after being defeated in the third round. The 40-year-old showed her customary grit and determination in the

gruelling three-hour match. The watching crowd stood and erupted in thunderous applause and an outpouring of love at the moment defeat arrived. "Happy tears" streamed down her face as Ms Williams showed her appreciation to the crowd and waved farewell. In her post-match interview, she said: "I just thank everyone that's here, that's been on my side so many years, decades...literally decades. But, it all started with my parents."

Serena Williams is arguably the greatest tennis player of all time. Her 23 Grand Slam titles, her 319 weeks spent as the world's number one, and her 27 years at the top as a professional are testament to that. However, her achievements have spread far beyond tennis. She has been an inspiration to girls worldwide. Former tennis great Billie Jean King said her "greatest contributions may be yet to come". Current American player 18-year-old Coco Gauff cited Williams as her hero. She said: "The impact you've had on me goes beyond any words that can be put together." Former United States First Lady Michelle Obama said: "I can't wait to see the lives you continue to transform with your talents."

Sources: yahoo.com / espn.com / bbc.com

Writing

Serena Williams is the greatest sports superstar ever. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sport / legend / professional / tennis / tournament / grit / tears / crowd / farewell / the greatest / titles / achievements / inspiration / contributions / impact / words

True / False

- 1) The article says Serena Williams is the greatest ever sporting legend. T / F
- 2) Serena Williams will be 40 years old next month. T / F
- 3) There was thunder and lightning the moment Serena Williams lost. T / F
- 4) Serena Williams thanked her parents during a post-match interview. T / F
- 5) Ms Williams spent nearly 320 weeks as world number one. T / F
- 6) Ms Williams was a tennis professional for 27 years. T / F
- 7) A tennis great said the best of Serena is still to come. T / F
- 8) The US' current First Lady can't wait to see what Serena does from now. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. legend | a. poured |
| 2. bowed out | b. change |
| 3. grit | c. proof |
| 4. streamed | d. retired |
| 5. literally | e. guiding light |
| 6. arguably | f. quoted |
| 7. testament | g. icon |
| 8. inspiration | h. precisely |
| 9. cited | i. bravery |
| 10. transform | j. probably |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Serena Williams?
- c) Who is the greatest sports star of all time?
- d) Who is greater, Serena Williams or Rafael Nadal?
- e) What are your major achievements?
- f) Who has been your biggest inspiration?
- g) What impact have you made on people's lives?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Serena Williams?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. One of sport's greatest | a. greatest tennis player |
| 2. Serena Williams bowed | b. in thunderous applause |
| 3. The 40-year-old showed her customary grit | c. with your talents |
| 4. The watching crowd stood and erupted | d. match interview |
| 5. In her post- | e. be yet to come |
| 6. Serena Williams is arguably the | f. out of the US Open |
| 7. her achievements have spread | g. beyond any words |
| 8. her greatest contributions may | h. and determination |
| 9. The impact you've had on me goes | i. far beyond tennis |
| 10. the lives you continue to transform | j. ever legends |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Serena Williams?
- What do you think of tennis?
- Is Serena Williams the greatest tennis player of all time?
- How much grit and determination do you have?
- How do you think Serena felt after the final point?
- Do you think Serena should have continued her career?
- Is men's or women's tennis more exciting?
- What advice do you have for Serena?

Spelling

- the US Open tennis trtanmnoe
- The 40-year-old showed her matucosyr grit
- in the urielgng three-hour match
- thunderous spepulaa
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- an niirtsapino to girls worldwide
- her greatest otnntiuscribo may be yet to come
- Coco Gauff cetdi Williams as her hero

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Serena Williams

You think Serena Williams is the greatest legend. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as legendary Also, tell the others which is the least legendary of these (and why): Nelson Mandela, Steve Jobs or Queen Elizabeth II.

Role B – Nelson Mandela

You think Nelson Mandela is the greatest legend. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as legendary Also, tell the others which is the least legendary of these (and why): Serena Williams, Steve Jobs or Queen Elizabeth II.

Role C – Steve Jobs

You think Steve Jobs is the greatest legend. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as legendary Also, tell the others which is the least legendary of these (and why): Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams or Queen Elizabeth II.

Role D – Queen Elizabeth II

You think Queen Elizabeth II is the greatest legend. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as legendary Also, tell the others which is the least legendary of these (and why): Nelson Mandela, Steve Jobs or Serena Williams.

Speaking – Legends

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest legends at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Serena Williams | • Taylor Swift |
| • Lewis Hamilton | • Neil Armstrong |
| • Steve Jobs | • Oprah Winfrey |
| • Nelson Mandela | • Queen Elizabeth II |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.