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Level 1 – 23rd October 2025

Japan elects its first ever female prime minister

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-1.html>

Japan has its first female prime minister. Sanae Takaichi, 64, is the country's 104th prime minister. She won 237 votes in Japan's parliament. She takes over from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in power for a year. Takaichi made a deal with a right-wing party to win. However, she has a difficult job. Japanese people are unhappy about food prices, job security, and a falling birth rate. They are also worried about the growing number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi has had an interesting life. She played drums in a rock band. She supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She also had a powerful motorbike. In 1987, she moved to the USA and wrote books about politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor. Women hope Takaichi will support gender equality and diversity. However, she does not support same-sex marriage.

Sources: <https://apnews.com/article/japan-first-female-prime-minister-vote-trump-24b4a5e2a2b777139de66e38665ced0d>
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20251021/p2g/00m/0na/030000c>
<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/16104830>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanae_Takaichi

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. the country's 104th | a. rate |
| 2. He was in power | b. wing party |
| 3. made a deal with a right- | c. of old people |
| 4. people are unhappy | d. for a year |
| 5. job | e. about food prices |
| 6. a falling birth | f. worried |
| 7. They are also | g. security |
| 8. the growing number | h. prime minister |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Takaichi has had an interesting | a. band |
| 2. She played | b. a TV anchor |
| 3. in a rock | c. sex marriage |
| 4. She also had a powerful | d. about politics |
| 5. wrote books | e. and diversity |
| 6. she worked as | f. drums |
| 7. gender equality | g. life |
| 8. same- | h. motorbike |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-1.html>

Japan (1) _____ female prime minister.
Sanae Takaichi, 64, (2) _____ 104th prime
minister. She won 237 votes in Japan's parliament. She takes
(3) _____ leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in
power for a year. Takaichi made a (4) _____
right-wing party to win. However, she has a difficult job.
Japanese people (5) _____ food prices, job
security, and a falling birth rate. They are also worried about the
(6) _____ old people.

Sanae Takaichi has (7) _____ life. She
played drums in a rock band. She supports the Gamba Osaka
(8) _____ the Hanshin Tigers baseball team.
She also had a powerful motorbike. In 1987,
(9) _____ the USA and
(10) _____ politics. In 1989, she worked as a
TV anchor. Women hope Takaichi (11) _____
equality and diversity. However, she does not support
(12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-1.html>

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POLITICAL LEADERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about political leaders in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-1.html>

Write about **political leaders** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]