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Level 3 – 23rd October 2025

Japan elects its first ever female prime minister

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Japan has its first ever female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. She was elected as the country's 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 votes in the lower house of Japan's Diet (parliament). Her opponent, Yoshihiko Noda, won 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes over from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in power for just one year. Takaichi is head of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). To get enough votes to win the election, she had to make an alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party. She has a tough job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about rising prices, job security, a falling birth rate, and how to care for the increasing number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi, 64, has led an interesting life. At university, she played drums in a heavy metal rock band. She likes sport and supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She was interested in motorcycles and had a powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved to the USA and wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor on a variety show. Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender equality and diversity. However, she opposes same-sex marriage and allowing separate surnames for married couples. In addition, she does not agree that a woman should become emperor ahead of a man.

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

WARM-UPS

1. POLITICAL LEADERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about political leaders. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

prime minister / votes / parliament / opponent / power / alliance / right-wing / prices
an interesting life / playing the drums / sport / motorbike / gender equality / surname

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WOMEN: Students A **strongly** believe female leaders are better; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. LEADERS: Who are the best leaders in these areas? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Who	Why?
National		
International		
Business		
Religion		
Tech		
Human rights		

5. POLITICS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "politics". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. ISSUES: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important issues at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Food prices
- Jobs
- Falling birth rates
- Care for old people
- Gender equality
- Same-sex marriage
- Immigration
- Crime

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. elected | a. Show your choice or opinion in an election. |
| 2. vote | b. A person or team you compete or fight against in a contest or election. |
| 3. parliament | c. The number of babies born in a country in a year. |
| 4. opponent | d. The building where the leaders of a country meet, talk, and make or change laws. |
| 5. former | e. Having conservative or traditional political ideas. |
| 6. right-wing | f. Chosen by people in a vote for a job or position. |
| 7. birth rate | g. Someone who had a job or position in the past. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8. support | h. Went to live in a new house, town or country. |
| 9. moved | i. The work and activities of the government, or the way a country is run. |
| 10. politics | j. Another word for family name. |
| 11. hope | k. When men and women are treated the same. |
| 12. gender equality | l. Want something to happen or be true. |
| 13. diversity | m. Help or agree with someone or something. |
| 14. surname | n. Having many different kinds of people, ideas, animals and flowers, etc. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Japan had 103 prime ministers before Sanae Takaichi was elected. **T / F**
2. Sanae Takaichi's opponent got over 200 votes in the election. **T / F**
3. The prime minister before Sanae Takaichi was leader for two years. **T / F**
4. Sanae Takaichi made an alliance with a left-wing party. **T / F**
5. Sanae Takaichi liked playing drums and riding motorbikes. **T / F**
6. Sanae Takaichi lived in the US for a while. **T / F**
7. Sanae Takaichi is a strong supporter of same-sex marriage. **T / F**
8. Takaichi believes people should have separate surnames after marrying. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. elected | a. past |
| 2. opponent | b. sufficient |
| 3. former | c. partners |
| 4. enough | d. rival |
| 5. tough | e. follows |
| 6. supports | f. fairness |
| 7. moved | g. chosen |
| 8. background | h. difficult |
| 9. equality | i. relocated |
| 10. couple | j. ex- |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. She won 237 | a. ahead of her |
| 2. She has a tough job | b. sex marriage |
| 3. people are unhappy about rising | c. of old people |
| 4. a falling birth | d. an interesting life |
| 5. care for the increasing number | e. prices |
| 6. Sanae Takaichi, 64, has led | f. in motorcycles |
| 7. She was interested | g. couples |
| 8. she will support gender equality and | h. rate |
| 9. same- | i. diversity |
| 10. married | j. votes |

GAP FILL

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

Japan has its first ever female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. She was (1) _____ as the country's 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 votes in the lower house of Japan's Diet (parliament). Her (2) _____, Yoshihiko Noda, won 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes over from (3) _____ leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in power for just one year. Takaichi is (4) _____ of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). To get enough votes to win the election, she had to make an (5) _____ with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party. She has a (6) _____ job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about rising (7) _____, job security, a falling birth rate, and how to care for the (8) _____ number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi, 64, has (9) _____ an interesting life. At university, she (10) _____ drums in a heavy metal rock band. She likes sport and (11) _____ the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She was interested in motorcycles and had a powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi (12) _____ to the USA and wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor on a (13) _____ show. Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender (14) _____ and diversity. However, she opposes same-sex marriage and allowing separate surnames for married (15) _____. In addition, she does not agree that a woman should become emperor (16) _____ of a man.

opponent

head

prices

elected

tough

increasing

former

alliance

equality

moved

played

ahead

variety

led

couples

supports

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) the country's 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 votes in _____
 - a. the lower hose
 - b. the lower house
 - c. the lower homes
 - d. the flower house
- 2) Her opponent, Yoshihiko Noda, _____
 - a. one 149 votes
 - b. win 149 votes
 - c. won 149 vote
 - d. won 149 votes
- 3) To get enough votes to win the election, she had to make an alliance with _____
 - a. the bright wing
 - b. the fright wing
 - c. the right wing
 - d. the light wing
- 4) She has a tough job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy _____
 - a. about rising price
 - b. about rising prices
 - c. about rise in prices
 - d. about risen prices
- 5) and how to care for the increasing number _____
 - a. of old people
 - b. of age people
 - c. of fold people
 - d. off old people
- 6) At university, she played drums in a heavy _____
 - a. metal lock band
 - b. mettle rock band
 - c. metal lock brand
 - d. metal rock band
- 7) In 1987, Takaichi moved to the USA and wrote books _____
 - a. about American politic
 - b. about American politician
 - c. about American politics
 - d. about American political
- 8) In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor on _____
 - a. a variety show
 - b. a varieties show
 - c. a various show
 - d. a vary tea show
- 9) Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will _____
 - a. support gander equality
 - b. support agenda equality
 - c. support gender equality
 - d. support Gen Z equality
- 10) she opposes same-sex marriage and allowing separate surnames _____
 - a. for married coups
 - b. for married couples
 - c. for married couplets
 - d. for married couple

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Japan has its first ever female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. She (1) _____ the country's 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 votes in the (2) _____ Japan's Diet (parliament). Her opponent, Yoshihiko Noda, won 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes (3) _____ leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in power for just one year. Takaichi is head of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). To (4) _____ to win the election, she had to make an alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party. She has a (5) _____ of her. Japanese people are unhappy about rising prices, job security, a falling birth rate, and how to (6) _____ increasing number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi, 64, has (7) _____ life. At university, she played drums in a heavy metal rock band. She likes sport and supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She was interested in motorcycles (8) _____ powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved to the USA and wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor on (9) _____. Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender (10) _____. However, she opposes same-sex marriage and allowing (11) _____ married couples. In addition, she does not agree that a woman should become emperor (12) _____ man.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many votes did Sanae Takaichi win to become prime minister?
2. How long was former prime minister Shigeru Ishiba in power for?
3. What kind of party did Sanae Takaichi make an alliance with?
4. What kind of job does the article say Sanae Takaichi has?
5. What are Japanese people worried about the security of?
6. What kind of life does the article say Sanae Takaichi has had?
7. What two sports does Sanae Takaichi like?
8. What did Sanae Takaichi write books about?
9. What did Sanae Takaichi work as in 1989?
10. What do women hope Sanae Takaichi will support besides diversity?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How many votes did Sanae Takaichi win to become prime minister?
 - a) 273
 - b) 237
 - c) 149
 - d) 194
- 2) How long was former prime minister Shigeru Ishiba in power for?
 - a) two years
 - b) 18 months
 - c) six months
 - d) one year
- 3) What kind of party did Sanae Takaichi make an alliance with?
 - a) a right-wing party
 - b) a left-wing party
 - c) a green party
 - d) a centre-ground party
- 4) What kind of job does the article say Sanae Takaichi has?
 - a) a great one
 - b) an interesting one
 - c) a tough one
 - d) a powerful one
- 5) What are Japanese people worried about the security of?
 - a) the streets
 - b) jobs
 - c) their houses
 - d) schools
- 6) What kind of life does the article say Sanae Takaichi has had?
 - a) an interesting one
 - b) a full one
 - c) a successful one
 - d) a great one
- 7) What two sports does Sanae Takaichi like?
 - a) soccer and tennis
 - b) sumo and baseball
 - c) soccer and baseball
 - d) tennis and sumo
- 8) What did Sanae Takaichi write books about?
 - a) politics
 - b) travel
 - c) Japanese history
 - d) food
- 9) What did Sanae Takaichi work as in 1989?
 - a) a TV anchor
 - b) a bullet train driver
 - c) a banker
 - d) a teacher
- 10) What do women hope Sanae Takaichi will support besides diversity?
 - a) healthcare
 - b) single parents
 - c) new businesses
 - d) gender and equality

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Food Prices

You think the price of food is the most important issue in your country today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): job security, crime or gender equality.

Role B – Job Security

You think job security is the most important issue in your country today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the price of food, crime or gender equality.

Role C – Crime

You think crime is the most important issue in your country today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): job security, the price of food or gender equality.

Role D – Gender Equality

You think gender equality is the most important issue in your country today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): job security, crime or the price of food.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'female' and 'prime minister'.

female	prime minister

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

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

• ever • lower • takes • power • tough • old	• life • university • interested • wrote • background • agree
--	---

POLITICAL LEADERS SURVEY

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

POLITICAL LEADERS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'politics'?
3. What do you think of your country's leader?
4. Who is the world's best national leader?
5. Are male or female leaders best?
6. Would you be a good leader of your country?
7. What would you like your country's leader to do?
8. How worried are you about rising prices?
9. How worried are you about job security?
10. What advice do you have for Sanae Takaichi?

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POLITICAL LEADERS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'prime minister'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How interesting a life have you had?
15. How important is it for a leader to have an interesting background?
16. What musical instruments can you play?
17. What sports are you interested in?
18. How is gender equality in your country?
19. Should people keep their at-birth surname after getting married?
20. What questions would you like to ask Sanae Takaichi?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Japan has its first (1) _____ female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. She was elected (2) _____ the country's 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 votes in the lower house of Japan's Diet (parliament). Her (3) _____, Yoshihiko Noda, won 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes over from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was (4) _____ power for just one year. Takaichi is head of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). To get enough votes to (5) _____ the election, she had to make an alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party. She has a tough job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about rising prices, job security, a falling (6) _____ rate, and how to care for the increasing number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi, 64, has led an interesting life. At university, she played drums in a heavy metal rock band. She likes sport and (7) _____ the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She was interested (8) _____ motorcycles and had a powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved to the USA and wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor on a (9) _____ show. Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender equality and (10) _____. However, she opposes same-sex (11) _____ and allowing separate surnames for married couples. In addition, she does not agree that a woman should become emperor ahead (12) _____ a man.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) never | (b) ever | (c) every | (d) even |
| 2. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) that | (d) has |
| 3. | (a) opposes | (b) opposition | (c) oppose | (d) opponent |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) of | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) winner | (b) win | (c) wins | (d) winning |
| 6. | (a) birthday | (b) born | (c) birth | (d) births |
| 7. | (a) supporter | (b) supporting | (c) supports | (d) support |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) in | (d) by |
| 9. | (a) varying | (b) various | (c) vary | (d) variety |
| 10. | (a) diversity | (b) diverse | (c) diversion | (d) diversify |
| 11. | (a) marriage | (b) marry | (c) marrying | (d) married |
| 12. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) of | (d) on |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. She was ecteeld
2. Her tenopopn, Yoshihiko Noda
3. takes over from merfro leader Shigeru Ishiba
4. she had to make an alnciael
5. She has a tgohu job ahead of her
6. job screutiy

Paragraph 2

7. ppsoturs the Gamba Osaka soccer team
8. a TV anchor on a aetriyv show
9. gender equality and ietdiysvr
10. she opposes same-sex rgearaim
11. separate mrausnse for married couples
12. a woman should become eeoprrm

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 votes in the lower house of Japan's Diet (parliament). Her opponent,
- () band. She likes sport and supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball
- () couples. In addition, she does not agree that a women should become emperor ahead of a man.
- () equality and diversity. However, she opposes same-sex marriage and allowing separate surnames for married
- (**1**) Japan has its first ever female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. She was elected as the country's
- () job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about rising prices, job
- () power for just one year. Takaichi is head of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). To get enough
- () Sanae Takaichi, 64, has led an interesting life. At university, she played drums in a rock
- () security, a falling birth rate, and how to care for the increasing number of old people.
- () show. Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender
- () team. She was interested in motorcycles and had a powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved
- () to the USA and wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor on a variety
- () votes to win the election, she had to make an alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party. She has a tough
- () Yoshihiko Noda, won 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes over from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. was He power in just for year one .
2. Get votes enough win to election the .
3. She a has job her tough of ahead .
4. are people Japanese about unhappy prices rising .
5. Care the for number increasing old of people .
6. played She in drums heavy a band metal .
7. America In, wrote she about books politics American .
8. Women she hope support will equality gender .
9. She allowing opposes surnames separate married for couples .
10. doesn't She that agree should women emperor be .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Japan has its first *ever / every* female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. She was elected as the country's 104th prime minister on Tuesday. She won 237 *votes / voting* in the lower house of Japan's Diet (parliament). Her opponent, Yoshihiko Noda, *win / won* 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes *over / under* from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was *on / in* power for just one year. Takaichi is *face / head* of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). To get enough votes to win *a / the* election, she had to make an alliance with the right-wing Japan Innovation Party. She has a *though / tough* job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about *rising / rise* prices, job security, a falling birth rate, and how to *care / careful* for the increasing number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi, 64, has led an interesting *live / life*. At university, she played *drums / drum* in a heavy metal rock band. She likes *sport / sporting* and supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She was *interesting / interested* in motorcycles and had a powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved *at / to* the USA and wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked *as / has* a TV anchor on a variety show. Women in Japan hope Takaichi's background means she will support *gander / gender* equality and diversity. However, she *supposes / opposes* same-sex marriage and allowing separate surnames for married *couple / couples*. In addition, she does not agree that a woman should become emperor ahead *to / of* a man.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

J_p_n h_s _ts f_rst _v_r f_m_l_ pr_m_ m_n_st_r. H_r
n_m_ _s S_n__ T_k__ch_. Sh_ w_s _l_ct_d _s th_
c__ntry's 104th pr_m_ m_n_st_r _n T__sd_y. Sh_ w_n
237 v_t_s _n th_ l_w_r h__s_ _f J_p_n's D__t
(p_rl__m_nt). H_r _pp_n_nt, Y_sh_h_k_ N_d_, w_n 149
v_t_s. Ms T_k__ch_ t_k_s _v_r fr_m f_rm_r l__d_r
Sh_g_r_ _sh_b_. H_ w_s _n p_w_r f_r j_st _n_ y__r.
T_k__ch_ _s h__d _f J_p_n's L_b_r_l D_m_cr_t_c P_rty
(LDP). T_ g_t _n__gh v_t_s t_ w_n th_ _l_ct__n, sh_
h_d t_ m_k_ _n _ll__nc_ w_th th_ r_gh_t-w_ng J_p_n
_nn_v_t__n P_rty. Sh_ h_s _ t__gh j_b _h__d _f h_r.
J_p_n_s_ p__pl_ _r_ _nh_ppy _b__t r_s_ng pr_c_s, j_b
s_c_r_ty, _ f_ll_ng b_rth r_t_, _nd h_w t_ c_r_ f_r
th_ _ncr__s_ng n_mb_r _f _ld p__pl_.

S_n__ T_k__ch_, 64, h_s l_d _n _nt_r_st_ng l_f_. _t
_n_v_rs_ty, sh_ pl_y_d dr_ms _n _ h__vy m_t_l r_ck
b_nd. Sh_ l_k_s sp_r_t _nd s_pp_rts th_ G_mb_ _s_k_
s_cc_r t__m _nd th_ H_nsh_n T_g_rs b_s_b_ll t__m.
Sh_ w_s _nt_r_st_d _n m_t_rcycl_s _nd h_d _ p_w_rf_l
K_w_s_k_ Z400 m_t_rb_k_. _n 1987, T_k__ch_ m_v_d
t_ th_ _S_ _nd wr_t_ b__ks _b__t _m_r_c_n p_l_t_cs.
n 1989, sh w_rk_d _s _ TV _nch_r _n _ v_r__ty
sh_w. W_m_n _n J_p_n h_p_ T_k__ch_'s b_ckgr__nd
m__ns sh_ w_ll s_pp_r_t g_nd_r _q__l_ty _nd d_v_rs_ty.
H_w_v_r, sh_ _pp_s_s s_m_-s_x m_rr__g_ _nd _ll_w_ng
s_p_r_t_ s_rn_m_s f_r m_rr__d c__pl_s. _n _dd_t__n,
sh_ d__s n_t _gr__ th_t _ w_m_n sh__ld b_c_m_
_mp_r_r _h__d _f _ m_n.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

Japan has its first ever female prime minister. Her name is Sanae Takaichi. japan has its first ever female prime minister her name is sanae takaichi she was elected as the countrys 104th prime minister on tuesday she won 237 votes in the lower house of japans diet parliament her opponent yoshihiko noda won 149 votes ms takaichi takes over from former leader shigeru ishiba he was in power for just one year takaichi is head of japans liberal democratic party ldp to get enough votes to win the election she had to make an alliance with the rightwing japan innovation party she has a tough job ahead of her japanese people are unhappy about rising prices job security a falling birth rate and how to care for the increasing number of old people

sanae takaichi 64 has led an interesting life at university she played drums in a heavy metal rock band she likes sport and supports the gamba osaka soccer team and the hanshin tigers baseball team she was interested in motorcycles and had a powerful kawasaki z400 motorbike in 1987 takaichi moved to the usa and wrote books about american politics in 1989 she worked as a tv anchor on a variety show women in japan hope takaichis background means she will support gender equality and diversity however she opposes same-sex marriage and allowing separate surnames for married couples in addition she does not agree that a woman should become emperor ahead of a man

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Japanhasitsfirsteverfemaleprimeminister.HernameisSanaeTakaichi .Shewaselectedasthecountry's104thprimeministeronTuesday.She won237votesinthelowerhouseofJapan'sDiet(parliament).Heropponent,YoshihikoNoda,won149votes.MsTakaichitakesoverfromformerleaderShigeruIshiba.Hewasinpowerforjustoneyear.Takaichiisheadof Japan'sLiberalDemocraticParty(LDP).Togetenoughvotestowintheelection,shehadtomakeanalliancewiththeright-wingJapanInnovation Party.Shehasatoughjobaheadofher.Japanesepeopleareunhappyabout risingprices,jobsecurity,afallingbirthrate,andhowtocarefortheincreasingnumberofoldpeople.SanaeTakaichi,64,hasledaninteresting life.Atuniversity,sheplayeddrumsinarockband.ShelikessportandsupportstheGambaOsakasoccerteamandtheHanshinTigersbaseballteam.ShewasinterestedinmotorcyclesandhadapowerfulKawasakiZ400 motorbike.In1987,TakaichimovedtotheUSAandwrotebooksaboutAmericanpolitics.In1989,sheworkedasaTVanchoronavarietyshow.WomeninJapanhopeTakaichi'sbackgroundmeansshewillsupportgender equalityanddiversity.However,sheopposessame-sexmarriageandallowingseparatesurnamesformarriedcouples.Inaddition,shedoesnotagreethatawomanshouldbecomeemperoraheadofaman.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **political leaders** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

Women are better leaders than men. Discuss.

[illegible]

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 out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. POLITICAL LEADERS: Make a poster about political leaders. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TAKING TURNS: Write a magazine article about men and women should take turns to be political leaders. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on political leaders. Ask him/her three questions about the political leader of your country. Give him/her three of your opinions of that leader. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T 2 F 3 F 4 F 5 T 6 T 7 F 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 237
- One year
- A right-wing party
- A tough one
- They are rising
- An interesting one
- Soccer and baseball
- Politics
- A TV anchor
- Gender equality

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- He was in power for just one year.
- Get enough votes to win the election.
- She has a tough job ahead of her.
- Japanese people are unhappy about rising prices.
- Care for the increasing number of old people.
- She played drums in a heavy metal band.
- In America, she wrote books about American politics.
- Women hope she will support gender equality.
- She opposes allowing separate surnames for married couples.
- She doesn't agree that women should be emperor.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)