



Emmeline Pankhurst (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about Emmeline Pankhurst and the suffragette movement in Britain?
2. Can you name any of the tactics used by suffragettes to attract attention to their cause?
3. When did women gain the right to vote in parliamentary elections in your country?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. Emmeline Pankhurst was born in _____ on 14th July, 1858.
2. She attended her first women's suffrage meeting when she was _____ years old.
3. In _____, she founded the Women's Franchise League.
4. In 1903, she helped found the Women's _____ Union.
5. When imprisoned, the suffragettes began a campaign of _____ strikes.
6. In 1910, the police reacted violently when 300 women tried to _____.
7. During World War I, _____ women did the jobs of men who were away fighting.
8. In 1918, an act of Parliament gave women over _____ the right to vote.
9. In _____, a second Act gave men and women over 21 equal voting rights.
10. _____ Magazine included Pankhurst in its *100 Most Important People of the 20th Century*.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and decide whether these statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Emmeline Pankhurst's father wasn't in favour of parliamentary votes for women.
2. Pankhurst's organisation, The Women's Franchise League, was unsuccessful in its aim.
3. Pankhurst saw a link between the suffering of the poor and the lack of women's voting rights.
4. The term 'Suffragette' was invented by the press as an insult.
5. Not all suffragists approved of the radical tactics of Emmeline Pankhurst's organisation.
6. When suffragettes went on hunger strikes in prison, the prison authorities let them die of hunger.
7. The WSPU carried on with its protest throughout World War One.
8. Pankhurst did not live to see the triumph of her movement.

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. In our history exam, we had to explain what _____ the fall of the Roman Empire.
2. Peter's brother was sent to prison for _____. He set fire to the university's chemistry lab.
3. The manager's disrespectful behaviour _____ a lot of criticism among his staff.
4. Some pupils never go on school trips, as their parents haven't got the _____ to pay for them.
5. It's no use arguing like this. We need to call a _____ and look for a solution together.
6. My grandfather's family went through a period of financial _____ when he lost his job.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Emmeline Pankhurst was the creator and leader of the Suffragettes.

FORMED Emmeline Pankhurst formed and led the Suffragettes.

1. She was a brave and tireless fighter for the poor and oppressed, too.
BRAVELY She _____ for the poor and oppressed.
2. Some suffragists found the WSPU's militant tactics astonishing and shocking.
WERE Some suffragists _____ the WSPU's militant tactics.
3. After the war, the government couldn't ignore the suffragists' demands any more.
NO After the war, the government _____ the suffragists' demands.
4. Emmeline got on very well with her first daughter, Christabel.
CLOSE Emmeline _____ her first daughter, Christabel.
5. She stopped being on friendly terms with her other two daughters, Sylvia and Adela.
OUT She _____ her other two daughters, Sylvia and Adela.
6. Pankhurst said you need to break eggs in order to make omelettes.
CANNOT Pankhurst said you _____ eggs.

F – Write about it

Write about the road to women's suffrage in your country. Mention:

- when the campaign for women's voting rights started;
 - who the first campaigners were;
 - what methods they used;
 - what opposition they received;
 - what stages there were in the progression towards equal voting rights for women.
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Answers: Emmeline Pankhurst (B2)

B – Listen and answer

1. Manchester 2. fourteen/14 3. 1889 4. Social and Political 5. hunger 6. enter Parliament 7. two million 8. thirty/30 9. 1928 10. Time

C – Read and answer

1. F – Her parents were strong supporters of the Suffragist movement. 2. F – Its aim was to give women the right to vote in local elections. This was achieved in 1894. 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. F – They force-fed them or released them until they were better. 7. F – Both sides called a truce. 8. T

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. brought about 2. arson 3. aroused 4. means 5. truce 6. hardship

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. also fought bravely and tirelessly 2. were astonished and shocked by/at 3. could no longer ignore 4. was very close to 5. fell out with 6. cannot make omelettes without breaking