

# ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (born 1938) became President of Liberia in 2005. She was Africa's first ever elected female head of state. She has the nickname "Iron Lady" because of her iron will and determination. She also actively campaigns for women's rights. Before taking office as president, she worked for the World Bank and was vice president of Citibank Africa.

Johnson Sirleaf went to the top schools in the Liberian capital Monrovia. She was a very bright and diligent student. Her family moved to the USA, where she got her Bachelor's degree in accounting. She had a head for figures. In 1971, she graduated from Harvard University with a Master's in Public Administration. She was now equipped to help her poor country.

Ellen returned to Liberia and worked hard in several government positions and soon became Assistant Minister of Finance. In 1980, a coup forced Johnson Sirleaf into exile in Kenya. She returned home to run for the Senate in 1985. However, when she spoke out against the military regime, she was put in prison. After her release, she fled to America.

She returned to Liberia in 1997 to run in the presidential election. She got only 10% of the votes. She continued to play an active role in politics. She contested the 2005 elections and beat her rival, the soccer player George Weah. She wants Liberia to "become a brilliant beacon, an example to Africa and the world of what love of liberty can achieve".

245 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 9.0

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. head of state | a. numbers               |
| 2. will          | b. fights                |
| 3. campaigns     | c. hard-working          |
| 4. diligent      | d. leader                |
| 5. figures       | e. prepared              |
| 6. equipped      | f. strength of character |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 7. several    | g. escaped    |
| 8. regime     | h. freedom    |
| 9. fled       | i. opponent   |
| 10. contested | j. government |
| 11. rival     | k. numerous   |
| 12. liberty   | l. fought for |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. She was Africa's first ever            | a. for figures                      |
| 2. She has the nickname "Iron Lady"       | b. and beat her rival               |
| 3. She was a very bright and              | c. to help her poor country         |
| 4. She had a head                         | d. out against the military         |
| 5. She was now equipped                   | e. because of her iron will         |
| 6. worked hard in several                 | f. into exile in Kenya              |
| 7. a coup forced Johnson Sirleaf          | g. elected female head of state     |
| 8. she spoke                              | h. what love of liberty can achieve |
| 9. She contested the 2005 elections       | i. government positions             |
| 10. an example to Africa and the world of | j. diligent student                 |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (born 1938) became President of Liberia in 2005. She was Africa's \_\_\_\_\_ female head of state. She has the nickname "Iron Lady" because of \_\_\_\_\_ determination. She also actively campaigns \_\_\_\_\_. Before \_\_\_\_\_ president, she worked for the World Bank and was vice president of Citibank Africa.

Johnson Sirleaf \_\_\_\_\_ schools in the Liberian capital Monrovia. She was a very \_\_\_\_\_ student. Her family moved to the USA, where she got her Bachelor's degree in accounting. She \_\_\_\_\_ figures. In 1971, she graduated from Harvard University with a Master's in Public Administration. She \_\_\_\_\_ to help her poor country.

Ellen returned to Liberia and worked \_\_\_\_\_ government positions and soon became Assistant Minister of Finance. In 1980, \_\_\_\_\_ Johnson Sirleaf into exile in Kenya. She returned home to run for the Senate in 1985. However, \_\_\_\_\_ against the military regime, \_\_\_\_\_ prison. After her release, she fled to America.

She returned to Liberia in 1997 to run in the presidential election. She \_\_\_\_\_ of the votes. She continued to play \_\_\_\_\_ politics. She contested the 2005 elections and \_\_\_\_\_, the soccer player George Weah. She wants Liberia to "become a brilliant beacon, an example to Africa and \_\_\_\_\_ love of liberty can achieve".

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:**

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of italics.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (born 1938) became President of Liberia in 2005. She was Africa's first *ever / even* elected female *leader / head* of state. She has the nickname "Iron Lady" because of her iron *will / shall* and determination. She also actively campaigns for women's rights. Before taking office as president, she worked for the World Bank and was *vice / nice* president of Citibank Africa.

Johnson Sirleaf went to the top schools in the Liberian capital Monrovia. She was a very *right / bright* and diligent student. Her family moved to the USA, where she got her Bachelor's degree in accounting. She had a head *of / for* figures. In 1971, she graduated from Harvard University with a Master's in Public Administration. She was now *equipped / equipment* to help her *poor / poverty* country.

Ellen returned to Liberia and worked *hardly / hard* in several government positions and soon became Assistant Minister of Finance. In 1980, a coup forced Johnson Sirleaf *into / out* exile in Kenya. She returned home to *run / jog* for the Senate in 1985. However, when she spoke out against the military regime, she was put in prison. After her release, she *fled / flee* to America.

She returned to Liberia in 1997 to run in the presidential election. She got only 10% of the votes. She continued to *playing / play* an active role in politics. She contested the 2005 elections and *won / beat* her rival, the soccer player George Weah. She wants Liberia to "become a brilliant *bacon / beacon*, an example to Africa and the world of what love of liberty can *achieve / achievement*".

## SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

### *Paragraph 1*

1. Africa's first ever deltece female head of state
2. She has the mkcnaein "Iron Lady"
3. She also yelvctai campaigns for women's rights
4. vice eedsntpir of Citibank Africa

### *Paragraph 2*

5. the Liberian Itiacap Monrovia
6. She was a very bright and igntdile student
7. She had a head for rugeisf
8. She was now eppeiqdu to help her poor country

### *Paragraph 3*

9. worked hard in verlesa government positions
10. In 1980, a coup defcor Johnson Sirleaf into exile in Kenya
11. she spoke out against the military egimer
12. After her eealrse, she fled to America

### *Paragraph 4*

13. She got only 10% of the tesvo
14. She tscneoetd the 2005 elections
15. She wants Liberia to become a itlnrliab beacon
16. what love of trbeyli can achieve

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) She returned to Liberia in 1997 to run in the presidential election. She got only 10% of the
- ( ) rival, the soccer player George Weah. She wants Liberia to “become a brilliant
- ( ) diligent student. Her family moved to the USA, where she got her Bachelor’s degree in accounting. She had a head
- ( ) votes. She continued to play an active role in politics. She contested the 2005 elections and beat her
- ( **1** ) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (born 1938) became President of Liberia in 2005. She was Africa's first ever elected
- ( ) Administration. She was now equipped to help her poor country.
- ( ) female head of state. She has the nickname “Iron Lady” because of her iron will
- ( ) as president, she worked for the World Bank and was vice president of Citibank Africa.
- ( ) Ellen returned to Liberia and worked hard in several government positions and soon became Assistant Minister
- ( ) Johnson Sirleaf went to the top schools in the Liberian capital Monrovia. She was a very bright and
- ( ) and determination. She also actively campaigns for women’s rights. Before taking office
- ( ) 1985. However, when she spoke out against the military regime, she was put in prison. After her release, she fled to America.
- ( ) beacon, an example to Africa and the world of what love of liberty can achieve.”
- ( ) for figures. In 1971, she graduated from Harvard University with a Master’s in Public
- ( ) of Finance. In 1980, a coup forced Johnson Sirleaf into exile in Kenya. She returned home to run for the Senate in

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. state Africa's elected of was ever head first female.

---

2. actively for rights also campaigns women's She

---

3. diligent and bright very a was She student

---

4. had She figures for head a

---

5. her now poor equipped country to She help was

---

6. a , 1980 In Kenya in exile into Sirleaf Johnson forced coup

---

7. release her After America to fled she ,

---

8. the of % 10 only got She votes

---

9. role to in play politics an She active continued

---

10. to Liberia wants She beacon brilliant a become

---



**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

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

1. What do you know about Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?
2. Would you like to meet Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?
3. What would you like to know about Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

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

1. What did you learn from this text about Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?
2. What questions would you like to ask Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF SURVEY:

Write five questions about Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

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

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## 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 more information about Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she does every day and what she thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Ask her three questions about her life. Give her three suggestions on what she should do in her future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Ellen Johnson Sirleaf expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. head of state | a. leader                |
| 2. will          | b. strength of character |
| 3. campaigns     | c. fights                |
| 4. diligent      | d. hard-working          |
| 5. figures       | e. numbers               |
| 6. equipped      | f. prepared              |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 7. several    | g. numerous   |
| 8. regime     | h. government |
| 9. fled       | i. escaped    |
| 10. contested | j. fought for |
| 11. rival     | k. opponent   |
| 12. liberty   | l. freedom    |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. She was Africa's first ever            | a. elected female head of state     |
| 2. She has the nickname "Iron Lady"       | b. because of her iron will         |
| 3. She was a very bright and              | c. diligent student                 |
| 4. She had a head                         | d. for figures                      |
| 5. She was now equipped                   | e. to help her poor country         |
| 6. worked hard in several                 | f. government positions             |
| 7. a coup forced Johnson Sirleaf          | g. into exile in Kenya              |
| 8. she spoke                              | h. out against the military         |
| 9. She contested the 2005 elections       | i. and beat her rival               |
| 10. an example to Africa and the world of | j. what love of liberty can achieve |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.