

# SONIA GANDHI

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Sonia Gandhi was born in 1946 to Italian parents in a small village in northern Italy. She was raised as a Roman Catholic and attended a Catholic school. Her life changed in 1964 when she went to study English in England. It was there that she met and fell in love with Rajiv Gandhi, the future Prime Minister of India.

The couple were married in 1969. Sonia quickly got a taste of Indian politics when she moved in with her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister. They decided to stay out of politics. Rajiv was an airline pilot and Sonia stayed at home to look after her family. This changed dramatically in 1984 when Indira was assassinated and Rajiv became Prime Minister.

Following her husband's assassination in 1991, she was under a lot of pressure to become leader of the ruling Congress Party. She refused many times over the next seven years. She hated politics and said she would rather her children be beggars than politicians. She finally joined the Congress Party and became its president within a record 62 days of joining.

She has been Congress President for ten consecutive years – another record. In 2004 she was asked to lead a 15-party coalition and be India's Prime Minister. She refused and caused a political storm. She is still a member of parliament for Uttar Pradesh. She now speaks at international conferences and makes the yearly lists of the world's most powerful or influential women.

246 words

Flesch Kinkaid 9.5

**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. raised       | a. transformed   |
| 2. attended     | b. away from     |
| 3. changed      | c. went to       |
| 4. taste        | d. significantly |
| 5. out of       | e. idea          |
| 6. dramatically | f. brought up    |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 7. assassination | g. detested    |
| 8. refused       | h. controversy |
| 9. hated         | i. said no     |
| 10. lead         | j. murder      |
| 11. storm        | k. gets on     |
| 12. makes        | l. head        |

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

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. She was raised                      | a. beggars than politicians  |
| 2. she met and fell                    | b. out of politics           |
| 3. Sonia quickly got a taste           | c. assassination in 1991     |
| 4. They decided to stay                | d. as a Roman Catholic       |
| 5. This changed                        | e. political storm           |
| 6. Following her husband's             | f. of Indian politics        |
| 7. she would rather her children be    | g. ten consecutive years     |
| 8. She has been Congress President for | h. 15-party coalition        |
| 9. she was asked to lead a             | i. in love with Rajiv Gandhi |
| 10. She refused and caused a           | j. dramatically in 1984      |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Sonia Gandhi was born in 1946 \_\_\_\_\_ a small village in northern Italy. \_\_\_\_\_ Roman Catholic and attended a Catholic school. Her life changed in 1964 when she went to study English in England. It \_\_\_\_\_ and fell in love with Rajiv Gandhi, the future Prime Minister of India.

The couple were married in 1969. Sonia \_\_\_\_\_ Indian politics when \_\_\_\_\_ mother-in-law Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister. They \_\_\_\_\_ politics. Rajiv was an airline pilot and Sonia stayed at home to look after her family. This \_\_\_\_\_ 1984 when Indira was assassinated and Rajiv became Prime Minister.

Following her husband's assassination in 1991, \_\_\_\_\_ pressure to become leader of the ruling Congress Party. She refused many \_\_\_\_\_ seven years. She hated politics and said she \_\_\_\_\_ be beggars than politicians. She finally joined the Congress Party and became its president \_\_\_\_\_ of joining.

She has been Congress President \_\_\_\_\_ - another record. In 2004 she was asked to lead a 15-party coalition and be India's Prime Minister. She \_\_\_\_\_ political storm. She is still a member of parliament for Uttar Pradesh. She now speaks at international conferences and \_\_\_\_\_ the world's most powerful or influential women.

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:**

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

Sonia Gandhi was born *in / on* 1946 to Italian parents in a small village in northern Italy. She was raised as a Roman Catholic and *attended / attention* a Catholic school. Her life *changing / changed* in 1964 when she went to study English in England. It was there that she met and *fell / fallen* in love with Rajiv Gandhi, the future Prime Minister of India.

The couple were married in 1969. Sonia quickly got a *sip / taste* of Indian politics when she moved *out / in* with her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister. They decided to stay out of politics. Rajiv was an airline pilot and Sonia stayed at home to *look / care* after her family. This changed dramatically in 1984 *while / when* Indira was assassinated and Rajiv became Prime Minister.

Following her husband's assassination in 1991, she was *over / under* a lot of pressure to become leader of the ruling Congress Party. She refused many times *under / over* the next seven years. She hated politics and said she would *prefer / rather* her children be beggars than politicians. She *final / finally* joined the Congress Party and became its president within a record 62 days of joining.

She has been Congress President for ten consecutive years – *other / another* record. In 2004 she was asked to *leader / lead* a 15-party coalition and be India's Prime Minister. She refused and caused a political *storm / thunder*. She is still a member of parliament for Uttar Pradesh. She now speaks at international conferences and makes the yearly lists of the world's most powerful or *influence / influential* women.

## SPELLING:

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

### *Paragraph 1*

1. a small vlilega in northern Italy
2. atdtneed a Catholic school
3. Her life cgdneah in 1964
4. the urfetu Prime Minister of India

### *Paragraph 2*

5. Sonia quickly got a etsat of Indian politics
6. They edicedd to stay out of politics
7. Rajiv was an rnialei pilot
8. This dengach dramatically in 1984

### *Paragraph 3*

9. she was under a lot of upeersrs
10. She feeusdr many times
11. she would htrrae her children be beggars than politicians
12. She afnylli joined

### *Paragraph 4*

13. ten consecutive ysare
14. lead a 15-rytap coalition
15. She refused and caused a political mtsro
16. the world's most rfluwoople or influential women

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister. They decided to stay out of politics. Rajiv was an airline pilot and Sonia
- ( ) there that she met and fell in love with Rajiv Gandhi, the future Prime Minister of India.
- ( ) children be beggars than politicians. She finally joined the Congress Party and became its
- ( ) stayed at home to look after her family. This changed dramatically in 1984
- ( ) another record. In 2004 she was asked to lead a 15-party coalition and be India's Prime Minister. She refused and caused a political
- ( **1** ) Sonia Gandhi was born in 1946 to Italian parents in a small village in northern Italy. She was
- ( ) She has been Congress President for ten consecutive years –
- ( ) raised as a Roman Catholic and attended a Catholic school. Her life changed in 1964 when she went to study English in England. It was
- ( ) storm. She is still a member of parliament for Uttar Pradesh. She now speaks at international conferences and makes
- ( ) the yearly lists of the world's most powerful or influential women.
- ( ) ruling Congress Party. She refused many times over the next seven years. She hated politics and said she would rather her
- ( ) Following her husband's assassination in 1991, she was under a lot of pressure to become leader of the
- ( ) president within a record 62 days of joining.
- ( ) The couple were married in 1969. Sonia quickly got a taste of Indian politics when she moved in with
- ( ) when Indira was assassinated and Rajiv became Prime Minister.

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. born parents in Sonia 1946 Gandhi to was Italian

---

2. a Catholic was as Roman She raised

---

3. met with and Rajiv fell Gandhi in she love

---

4. quickly Sonia politics Indian of taste a got

---

5. to Sonia look stayed after at her home family

---

6. was lot to she a pressure leader under of become

---

7. her politicians children she be would beggars rather than

---

8. years President She for has ten been consecutive Congress

---

9. a storm refused caused political She and

---

10. a of She still member parliament is

---



**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

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

1. What do you know about Sonia Gandhi?
2. Would you like to meet Sonia Gandhi?
3. What would you like to know about Sonia Gandhi 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 Sonia Gandhi?
2. What questions would you like to ask Sonia Gandhi?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE SONIA GANDHI SURVEY:

Write five questions about Sonia Gandhi 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 Sonia Gandhi. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SONIA GANDHI POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Sonia Gandhi. 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 Sonia Gandhi. 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 Sonia Gandhi. 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 "Sonia Gandhi expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. raised       | a. brought up    |
| 2. attended     | b. went to       |
| 3. changed      | c. transformed   |
| 4. taste        | d. idea          |
| 5. out of       | e. away from     |
| 6. dramatically | f. significantly |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 7. assassination | g. murder      |
| 8. refused       | h. said no     |
| 9. hated         | i. detested    |
| 10. lead         | j. head        |
| 11. storm        | k. controversy |
| 12. makes        | l. gets on     |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. She was raised                      | a. as a Roman Catholic       |
| 2. she met and fell                    | b. in love with Rajiv Gandhi |
| 3. Sonia quickly got a taste           | c. of Indian politics        |
| 4. They decided to stay                | d. out of politics           |
| 5. This changed                        | e. dramatically in 1984      |
| 6. Following her husband's             | f. assassination in 1991     |
| 7. she would rather her children be    | g. beggars than politicians  |
| 8. She has been Congress President for | h. ten consecutive years     |
| 9. she was asked to lead a             | i. 15-party coalition        |
| 10. She refused and caused a           | j. political storm           |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.