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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/04/13

Margaret Thatcher dies

Recently Britain lost one of its most famous Prime Ministers. Baroness Thatcher, who was Britain's first female Prime Minister died "peacefully" at the age of 87 following a stroke. Baroness Thatcher will have a full ceremonial funeral with military honours at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Current Prime Minister David Cameron praised Baroness Thatcher saying she was "the greatest peacetime Prime Minister. She was a great leader, a great Briton". He added, "She didn't just lead our country, she saved our country."

Tributes from other world leaders past and present also poured in; including US President Barack Obama - who said the world had "lost one of the great champions of freedom and liberty and that America has lost a true friend."

Lady Thatcher was Prime Minister in Britain from 1979 to 1990. During her time in office she privatised several State-owned industries. She saw off the miners strike of 1984-85 and she was at No 10 when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in 1982.

In 1984, Margaret Thatcher survived an assassination attempt by the IRA when they bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative party's annual conference. She was also one of the key movers behind the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

During her later years in office she became increasingly associated with Euroscepticism. Lady Thatcher stood down in 1990 following a leadership contest in the Conservative party.

Love her or hate her she was a remarkable woman. 'The Iron Lady' will be remembered for many years to come.

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about Margaret Thatcher. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Who is the current British Prime Minister?
- 2) How old was Baroness Thatcher when she died?
- 3) Which political party was she leader of?
- 4) What did President Barack Obama say?
- 5) What was Margaret Thatcher known as?

Student B questions

- 1) What happened in 1984?
- 2) What happened in 1984-85?
- 3) When was Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister of Britain?
- 4) What happened in 1982?
- 5) Where will the funeral take place?

Category: Politics / Great Leaders / Margaret Thatcher
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Margaret Thatcher**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Margaret Thatcher dies - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Write down three major historic things Margaret Thatcher did when she was Prime minister. Talk about them together.

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of Baroness Thatcher?
- 3) How will Baroness Thatcher be remembered in your country?
- 4) Why is her death such an important historic occasion?
- 5) Why was Mrs Thatcher called 'The Iron Lady'?
- 6) What three things will you remember about Mrs Thatcher?
- 7) What did you like about her?
- 8) What did you dislike about her?
- 9) What was her relationship like with President Reagan?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC London* TV studio. Today's interview is: *Margaret Thatcher*.

- 1) A world leader
- 2) A journalist in your country
- 3) Barack Obama
- 4) A journalist in London

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a pub in London. Start a conversation about: '*Margaret Thatcher*'. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME

Groups – 20 things you know about Margaret Thatcher – the woman. 5 mins.

The teacher will choose some groups to hear their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Margaret Thatcher – how the Iron Lady helped to change Britain and the world

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What has been the press coverage like in your country about her death?
- 3) Have you been watching the TV about Lady Thatcher's death?
- 4) Where were you when you heard the news about her death?
- 5) Why will we remember 'The Iron Lady'?
- 6) Did you like Mrs Thatcher?
- 7) How was Mrs Thatcher perceived in your country?
- 8) What are your views on Margaret Thatcher?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Margaret Thatcher dies

Recently Britain lost one of its most famous Prime Ministers. (1)___ Thatcher, who was Britain's first female Prime Minister died "(2)___" at the age of 87 following a (3)__. Baroness Thatcher will have a full ceremonial (4)___ with military honours at St Paul's (5)___ in London.

Current Prime Minister David Cameron praised Baroness Thatcher saying she was "the greatest peacetime Prime Minister. She was a great (6)___, a great Briton". He added, "She didn't just lead our country, she saved our country."

(7)___ from other world leaders past and present also poured in; including US President Barack Obama - who said the world had "lost one of the great (8)___ of freedom and liberty and that America has lost a true friend."

Cathedral / stroke / champions / Baroness / funeral / leader / tributes / peacefully

Lady Thatcher was Prime Minister in Britain from 1979 to 1990. During her time in office she privatised (1)___ State-owned industries. She saw off the miners strike of 1984-85 and she was at No 10 when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in 1982.

In 1984, Margaret Thatcher survived an (2)___ attempt by the IRA when they bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative party's annual conference. She was also one of the key movers behind the fall of (3)___ in Eastern Europe.

During her (4)___ years in office she became increasingly associated with (5)__. Lady Thatcher stood down in 1990 following a leadership (6)___ in the Conservative party.

Love her or (7)___ her she was a remarkable woman. '(8)___' will be remembered for many years to come.

Eurocepticism / The Iron Lady / communism / hate / contest / assassination / several / later

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Margaret Thatcher dies

Recently Britain lost one of its (1)___ famous Prime Ministers. Baroness Thatcher, (2)___ was Britain's first female Prime Minister died "peacefully" at the age of 87 following a stroke. Baroness Thatcher will have a full ceremonial funeral (3)___ military honours at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Current Prime Minister David Cameron praised Baroness Thatcher saying she was "the greatest peacetime Prime Minister. (4)___ was a great leader, a great Briton". He added, "She didn't (5)___ lead our country, she saved our country."

Tributes (6)___ other world leaders past and present (7)___ poured in; including US President Barack Obama - who said the world had "lost one of the great champions of freedom and liberty and (8)___ America has lost a true friend."

just / from / most / that / also / with / who / she

Lady Thatcher was Prime Minister in Britain from 1979 to 1990. During (1)___ time in office she privatised several State-owned industries. She saw off the miners strike of 1984-85 and she was (2)___ No 10 when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands (3)___ 1982.

In 1984, Margaret Thatcher survived an assassination attempt (4)___ the IRA when they bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative party's annual conference. She was also one (5)___ the key movers behind the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

During her later years in office she became increasingly associated with Euroscepticism. Lady Thatcher stood down in 1990 following a leadership contest in (6)___ Conservative party.

Love her or hate her (7)___ was a remarkable woman. 'The Iron Lady' will be remembered (8)___ many years to come.

for / her / the / she / of / at / by / in

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Margaret Thatcher dies

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Current Prime Minister David Cameron praised Baroness Thatcher saying she was "the _____ Prime Minister. She was a great leader, a great Briton". He added, "She didn't just lead our country, she _____."

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Lady Thatcher was Prime Minister in Britain from 1979 to 1990. During _____ she privatised several State-owned industries. She saw off the miners strike of 1984-85 and she was at No 10 when Argentina invaded _____ in 1982.

In 1984, Margaret Thatcher survived an assassination attempt by the IRA when they bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative party's annual conference. She was also one of the key movers behind the _____ Eastern Europe.

During her later years in office she became increasingly associated with Euroscepticism. Lady Thatcher stood down in 1990 following _____ in the Conservative party.

Love her or hate her she was a remarkable woman. '_____' _____ be remembered for many years to come.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/small groups* – list five famous British Prime Ministers. Talk about each of them. *5 mins.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Margaret Thatcher _____
- 2) 'The Iron Lady' _____
- 3) Baroness Thatcher _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Margaret Thatcher**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) Baroness
- 2) peacefully
- 3) stroke
- 4) funeral
- 5) cathedral
- 6) leader
- 7) tributes
- 8) champions

ANSWERS

- 1) several
- 2) assassination
- 3) communism
- 4) later
- 5) Euroscepticism
- 6) contest
- 7) hate
- 8) the Iron Lady

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) assassination
- 2) remarkable
- 3) Euroscepticism
- 4) annual
- 5) conference
- 6) famous
- 7) peacefully
- 8) stroke
- 9) ceremonial
- 10) funeral

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) tributes
- 12) champions
- 13) freedom
- 14) liberty
- 15) privatised
- 16) Argentina
- 17) Falkland Islands
- 18) attempt
- 19) strike
- 20) funeral

Margaret Thatcher dies – *10th April 2013*