

# Hillary Clinton



In this lesson, you will read about a former First Lady and secretary of state of the United States.

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What is Hillary Clinton best known for?
2. What political party does Clinton represent?
3. What jobs has Hillary Clinton had?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.  
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. task force      | a) a change   |
| ___ 2. reform          | b) a student or beginner who is training for a job                    |
| ___ 3. impeach         | c) the person who represents the opposite side                        |
| ___ 4. intern          | d) lazy, not careful  |
| ___ 5. scandal         | e) the elected branch that makes the laws of the country              |
| ___ 6. Senate          | f) a shameful event or action that draws a lot of public attention    |
| ___ 7. nomination      | g) to become very negative and therefore difficult to watch or follow |
| ___ 8. foreign affairs | h) the state of being chosen for an important role or award           |
| ___ 9. classified      | i) relations between international leaders and nations                |
| ___ 10. careless       | j) a group with a specialized job to complete                         |
| ___ 11. opponent       | k) to charge with misconduct while holding public office              |
| ___ 12. get ugly       | l) top secret   |

## Reading

1. Hillary Diane Rodham was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947. She became interested in politics at a young age, and she volunteered for the Republican party before becoming a Democrat. While studying at Yale University, Hillary met fellow law student Bill Clinton. The couple married in 1975 and had their only child, Chelsea, five years later.
2. In 1993, after serving as governor of Arkansas for five terms, Bill Clinton became the 42nd president of the United States. For the next eight years, Hillary Clinton served as First Lady. She was head of the **Task Force** on Health Care **Reform** and one of her husband's top advisers.
3. In 1998, Bill Clinton was **impeached** for lying about a sexual relationship he had with a White House **intern**. Hillary Clinton supported her husband throughout the **scandal**. Toward the end of her husband's presidential term, Hillary Clinton ran for a seat on the **Senate** and won. For 20 days, she was both a New York senator and the First Lady.
4. In 2006, Hillary Clinton announced her plans to run for the presidency. She lost the Democratic **nomination** to Barack Obama, but she later joined his administration as secretary of state. Hillary Clinton served as Obama's chief **foreign affairs** adviser from 2009 to 2013. She travelled worldwide trying to improve US relations with foreign leaders.
5. In 2012, an Islamic militant group attacked two US government facilities in Benghazi, Libya. Four Americans died, and Hillary Clinton took responsibility for the security error. While researching Clinton's role in the Benghazi deaths, investigators found that Clinton had used her family's private email server for **classified** communications. The FBI investigated and called her behaviour "extremely **careless**."
6. In the spring of 2015, Hillary Clinton announced her second run for the presidency. Despite the email scandal, Mrs. Clinton became the Democratic nominee. The battle between Clinton and her Republican **opponent**, reality TV star Donald Trump, **got** so **ugly** that many parents had to protect their children from the coverage.
7. On November 8, 2016, America elected Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States. Trump's victory surprised Hillary Clinton, the nation, and the world.

*"If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all."*

—Hillary Clinton at the  
 UN Women's Conference, 1995

## Comprehension

### A. True, False, or Not Mentioned?

Read the statements below. Write T if the statement is true.  
Write F if the statement is false and correct the information  
in your notebook. Write NM if the fact is not mentioned.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In university, the Clintons studied law together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Hillary Clinton has a son and a daughter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Clinton's job as First Lady was head of Health Care Reform.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Hillary Clinton was a senator and a First Lady at the same time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Chelsea Clinton followed in her parents' footsteps and became a politician.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump represent the same political party.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Barack Obama campaigned against Hillary Clinton before he became president.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. First Lady Michelle Obama supported Hillary Clinton in her 2016 presidential campaign.

### B. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1-10).  
One item is not mentioned in the reading.  
Place a star beside it and guess where it belongs.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hillary Clinton became the head of the Task Force on Health Care Reform.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clinton became the first First Lady to win a seat in public office.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Barack Obama beat Hillary Clinton and became the Democratic nominee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Clintons bought a house in New York so that she could run for an open Senate seat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Barack Obama asked Clinton to be his top foreign adviser.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hillary Clinton supported her husband through his impeachment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chelsea Clinton was born.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hillary Clinton attended Yale University.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clinton announced plans to run for the presidency a second time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hillary Clinton lost the election, and Donald Trump became the president-elect.

## Vocabulary Review

### A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Things <u>got ugly</u> during the presidential debates.</p> <p>a) failed<br/>b) became negative<br/>c) changed</p>         | <p>3. Don't be so <u>careless</u>.<br/>Use a stronger password.</p> <p>a) worried<br/>b) casual<br/>c) careful</p> | <p>5. Her <u>opponent</u> was disrespectful to women.</p> <p>a) competitor<br/>b) running mate<br/>c) husband</p>                  |
| <p>2. How many <u>scandals</u> did she face in public office?</p> <p>a) accusations<br/>b) errors<br/>c) shameful situations</p> | <p>4. This military information is <u>classified</u>.</p> <p>a) unacceptable<br/>b) top secret<br/>c) false</p>    | <p>6. She was in charge of <u>foreign affairs</u>.</p> <p>a) immigration<br/>b) gender equality<br/>c) international relations</p> |

### B. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

1. It took two tries for Hillary Clinton to win the Democratic \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Bill Clinton was \_\_\_\_\_ for lying about his relations with intern Monica Lewinsky.
3. Important decisions about American laws are made in the \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Things got \_\_\_\_\_ when Americans found out about Clinton's email scandal.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ was set up to find and kill Osama bin Laden.
6. Will Donald Trump make tax \_\_\_\_\_ a priority?

## The First or Not?

Guess whether Hillary Clinton was the first woman to do the following. Write “yes” or “no” beside each of these statements. Your teacher will share the real answers. Count your correct answers. Which student deserves to be class president?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. first First Lady to have a degree
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. first First Lady to have an office in the West Wing
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. first First Lady to write a book
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. first female senator of New York
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. first First Lady to win a senate seat
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. first former First Lady to serve on the presidential cabinet
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. first female board member of Walmart
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. first First Lady to win a Grammy\* award
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. first female to serve as secretary of state
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. first female to run for US president

**\*Grammy**

an American recording award  
(usually for music)

## The Glass Ceiling

Hillary Clinton described the US presidency as “the highest, hardest glass ceiling” of all. What did she mean? Look up the expression “glass ceiling” and paraphrase the meaning in your own words. Why was Clinton unable to achieve this goal?

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