

A difficult balance of work and life

In the early years of the 21st century, American women were in a position of power they 1. (were , had , have) never before experienced in the history of western 2. (civilization , civilezation , civelization). They were graduating high school, college, and professional schools at 3. (unprecedented , inprecedented , antiprecedented) rates, leaving their male counterparts far behind. When they entered the working world, they took their place in 4. (the more competitive , the competitive , the most competitive) of fields such as medicine, banking, business, law, and politics. The gender ratios were not in 5. (there , their , they're) favour and women still earned 80 cents for each dollar their male counterparts made, but the gains and rewards looked clear: independence, power, wealth. 6. (Yet , Although , Because) this same generation of women, those who reaped the most from the 7. (strobes , strides , stripes) their mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers took in the past century, made 8. (the , a , an) unusual decision when they themselves became mothers. In greater numbers than ever before, they decided to quit their high-powered jobs and stay at home to take care of the children. This surprising choice to shift their focus to their families at that stage of their careers 9. (unfortunately , ultimately , uniformly) increased these successful career 10. (women's , woman's , womens') sense of self-worth.