

International Women's Day

Part 1: Reading for Gist: Skim the text and answer the question

What is the main idea of the text?

- A) International Women's Day started in 2020.
- B)) International Women's Day is a day to celebrate women's achievements and promote gender equality.
- C) International Women's Day is only celebrated in a few countries.
- D) International Women's Day is about giving gifts and flowers to women.

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International Women's Day (IWD) is observed annually on March 8th to honour the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. It also serves as a call to action for accelerating gender equality. The origins of this important day date back to 1911, when the first International Women's Day was marked by rallies and demonstrations advocating for women's rights, including better working conditions and the right to vote.

Over the years, International Women's Day has grown into a global movement, with countries around the world recognising the contributions of women in various fields such as science, politics, education, and business. Many organisations host conferences, exhibitions, and panel discussions to highlight the progress made and the challenges that still exist. These challenges include unequal pay, barriers to education, and gender discrimination.

Each year, International Women's Day has a specific theme that focuses on a key issue related to gender equality. In some cultures, people celebrate by giving flowers or small gifts to women as a token of appreciation. Others participate in campaigns, social media initiatives, and fundraising events to support projects that empower women and promote lasting change in society.

Part 2: Vocabulary Match

Match the words from the text with their meanings.

Word	meaning
1. Advocate	2. a) unfair treatment of people
3. Contribution	4. b) an important idea or subject
5. Discrimination	6. c) something valuable added to a cause or group
7. Empower	d) to publicly support a cause or idea
8. Theme	e) to give someone more confidence and control over their life

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Part 3: Comprehension Questions: Multiple choice – Choose the correct answer A B C or D

1. Why is International Women's Day celebrated?
 - A) To recognise women's achievements and promote gender equality.
 - B) To give women a day off work.
 - C) To celebrate Mother's Day.
 - D) To organise sports competitions.
2. When did the first International Women's Day take place?
 - A) 1900
 - B) 1911
 - C) 1950
 - D) 2000
3. What are some ways people observe this day?
 - A) By organising protests, events, and discussions.
 - B) By staying at home and resting.
 - C) By only giving gifts to family members.
 - D) By celebrating with fireworks.
4. What are some of the challenges that women still face today?
 - A) Unequal pay, barriers to education, and discrimination.
 - B) Not being able to drive.
 - C) Having too many holidays.
 - D) Lack of interest in education.
5. How do different cultures celebrate International Women's Day?
 - A) By giving flowers, organising events, and supporting women's rights campaigns.
 - B) By making it a public holiday in every country.
 - C) By holding music concerts only for women.
 - D) By not doing anything special.
6. Why do organisations organise events and discussions on this day?
 - A) To highlight progress and raise awareness about gender equality.
 - B) To give people free food.
 - C) To encourage men to work more.
 - D) To stop women from working.

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Part 4: True or False?

Read the statements below and decide if they are True (T) or False (F). If false.

1. International Women's Day is celebrated on April 8th. ()
2. The first International Women's Day took place in the 20th century. ()
3. Only women attend the events and discussions on International Women's Day. ()
4. One of the aims of International Women's Day is to promote gender equality. ()
5. Every country in the world celebrates International Women's Day in the same way. ()
6. Some people use International Women's Day to highlight issues like unequal pay. ()
7. International Women's Day was first celebrated in 2000. ()
8. Some cultures mark the day by giving women flowers or small gifts. ()
9. Gender discrimination is no longer a problem in modern society. ()
10. The theme of International Women's Day changes every year. ()

Vocabulary in Context Exercise

Read the text about International Women's Day and answer the following vocabulary questions.

1. What does the word "**observed**" mean in the sentence: "International Women's Day (IWD) is observed annually on March 8th"?

 - a) Created
 - b) Celebrated
 - c) Ignored
 - d) Stopped
2. The text says IWD is a "**call to action**" for gender equality. What does "**call to action**" mean?

 - a) A request for people to do something
 - b) A way to celebrate success
 - c) A punishment for inequality
 - d) A telephone conversation

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3. What does the word "**origins**" mean in the sentence: "The origins of this important day date back to 1911"?
 - a) The end of something
 - b) The challenges of something
 - c) The beginning of something
 - d) The reason for something
4. What does "**advocating for**" mean in the sentence: "rallies and demonstrations advocating for women's rights"?
 - a) Arguing against something
 - b) Supporting and speaking in favor of something
 - c) Ignoring something
 - d) Celebrating something
5. The text mentions that IWD has "**grown into a global movement.**" What does this mean?
 - a) It has become less popular over time
 - b) It has expanded and gained worldwide support
 - c) It has stayed the same since 1911
 - d) It has only been recognised in a few countries
6. The text says that "challenges still exist," such as "**barriers to education.**" What does "**barriers**" mean in this sentence?
 - a) Opportunities
 - b) Problems that make something difficult
 - c) Success stories
 - d) Rewards
7. What does "**token of appreciation**" mean in the sentence: "People celebrate by giving flowers or small gifts to women as a token of appreciation"?
 - a) A small gift to show gratitude
 - b) A way to ignore someone
 - c) A large and expensive present
 - d) A new tradition
8. The text mentions that some people take part in "**fundraising events.**" What does "**fundraising**" mean?

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- a) Giving people advice
- b) Collecting money for a cause
- c) Celebrating a holiday
- d) Organising a party