SPEAKING FOCUS

Famous speeches

Michelle Obama

"And finally, I want to **recognize** _____ are **gathered** here tonight, because there are so many sprinkled about, including our wonderful Women of Courage Award recipients, all of whom I got to spend time with earlier today. (…)
And we are celebrating those **accomplishments** here in America. Women are now the _____ _____ and universities. We make up nearly half of America's workforce. We got to get paid more for it. But we do. Women are **thriving** in every sector of our society._____.
We're serving at the highest levels of government and the armed forces. We're breaking **barriers** and succeeding in careers that our mothers and grandmothers never could have imagined."

(First Lady on Intenational Women's Day Reception, March 11th 2011, The White House, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)

1. What roles does Michelle Obama, being the First Lady, played in North American society?
2. What important roles do North American women play in their society?
3. What was being celebrated when Mrs. Obama gave the speech above?
4. Are women in America paid less than the male workforce?
5. How important is education for women today?



Developing vocabulary

1. recognize

2. gathered

3. accomplishments

4. thriving

5. barriers

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING FOCUS

Parts of speech

The **development** is the part of your speech where you have **to expose** all your ideas and arguments. In this part of the speech your main objective could range from simply informing your audience to convincing them of your point of view. It is essential, in this part of your speech, that you use reasons, examples, details and relevant data to **support** your main ideas and arguments.

Fluency

Will he be going to that restaurant tomorrow?

***As I said before**, he will be going to that restaurant tomorrow.*

1. Will he be playing with us at the recess today?
2. Will we be meeting at the park next week?
3. Will he be going to school all year?
4. Will she be paying for the circus tickets?
5. Will he be travelling to the city for the weekend?
6. Will they be joining us for lunch this afternoon?
7. Will we be staying in a hotel the whole month?
8. Will she be cooking this Christmas?



Listen and discuss

GENERATION GAP: Reflections of a Traditional Woman

1. Whose lives is the woman comparing?
2. Which examples of change does she mention?
3. In your family, were your ancestors (and your own) experiences similar to the ones described?
4. What is the biggest difference in the lives of women in your country from 100 years ago to now?
5. How do you imagine the lives of women in the next 25, 50 and 100 years?

Public Speaking Hints

The more you speak in public, the more you will enjoy it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING FOCUS

Transcript

Generation Gap: Reflections of a Traditional Woman

In a small, traditional community, an elderly woman reflects on how life has changed for women over the years. She compares her life to her granddaughter's, noticing significant differences. "In my time," she recalls, "life was simpler but much harder. Women married young, stayed at home, and focused on raising children and managing the household." Education was rare for women, and having a career was almost impossible.

Over the decades, she notes, many changes occurred. Access to education and career opportunities is a major shift. "Now, young women go to university, travel, and choose their own paths," she says, with both pride and nostalgia. Technology is another big difference: "We wrote letters and waited weeks for replies. Now, my granddaughter can speak to anyone around the world instantly."

She reflects on her family's history, acknowledging that her mother and grandmother faced even more restrictions, living under strict social norms with limited personal freedom. Today, her granddaughter enjoys opportunities to pursue a career, engage in politics, and even lead nations.

When asked about the most significant change in women's lives over the last century, she highlights freedom and autonomy. "A hundred years ago, women had to fight for the right to vote. Now, they are CEOs, scientists, and innovators."

Looking ahead, she imagines continued progress but hopes traditions will endure. In 25 years, she envisions gender equality in the workplace. In 50 years, she predicts a world where domestic duties are shared equally between men and women. A century from now, she dreams of a world where all women, regardless of their background, have access to education, healthcare, and opportunities, free from barriers.

"I just hope," she adds, "they never forget where they came from."

LIVEWORKSHEETS