

# SHIRIN EBADI

[http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/s/shirin\\_ebadi.html](http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/s/shirin_ebadi.html)

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Shirin Ebadi, born in 1947, is an Iranian lawyer and human rights activist. She is most famous for winning the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize. The panel of judges praised her significant and pioneering efforts for democracy and human rights, especially women's and children's rights. She is the only Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.

Ebadi grew up in Teheran and graduated in law in 1965. Four years later, she qualified to become a judge. In 1975, she became the first woman in her country to be in charge of a court. Following the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the new government decided it was against Islam for women to be judges, so Ebadi was demoted to a secretarial position.

Ebadi was allowed to practice as a lawyer in 1993. She famously defended high-profile cases, especially those who challenged Iran's leadership. She started campaigning for greater legal protection for women and children, gender equality, and democracy. She drafted a text against the physical abuse of children, which passed into law in 2002. She also founded the Children's Rights Support Association in Iran.

Winning the Nobel Prize propelled Ebadi onto the world stage. The selection committee praised her as a "courageous person" who "has never heeded the threat to her own safety". In 2008 she spoke about the dangers she faces in pursuing human rights: "Threats against my life and security and those of my family, which began some time ago, have intensified," she said.

246 words

Flesch Kinkaid 11.0

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. activist        | a. major      |
| 2. significant     | b. downgraded |
| 3. pioneering      | c. after      |
| 4. be in charge of | d. original   |
| 5. following       | e. campaigner |
| 6. demoted         | f. control    |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 7. lawyer       | g. wrote        |
| 8. drafted      | h. brave        |
| 9. abuse        | i. strengthened |
| 10. propelled   | j. attorney     |
| 11. courageous  | k. mistreatment |
| 12. intensified | l. launched     |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. human rights                            | a. for women to be judges     |
| 2. judges praised her significant          | b. pursuing human rights      |
| 3. she qualified                           | c. and pioneering efforts     |
| 4. it was against Islam                    | d. Ebadi onto the world stage |
| 5. Ebadi was demoted to a                  | e. to become a judge          |
| 6. campaigning for greater legal           | f. activist                   |
| 7. She drafted a text against the physical | g. to her own safety          |
| 8. Winning the Nobel Prize propelled       | h. secretarial position       |
| 9. never heeded the threat                 | i. protection for women       |
| 10. the dangers she faces in               | j. abuse of children          |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Shirin Ebadi, born in 1947, is an Iranian lawyer and \_\_\_\_\_.

She is most famous for winning the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize. The panel of \_\_\_\_\_ her significant and pioneering efforts for democracy and human rights, especially women's and children's rights. \_\_\_\_\_ Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.

Ebadi grew up in Teheran and \_\_\_\_\_ in 1965. Four years later, she qualified to become a judge. In 1975, she became the first woman in her country to \_\_\_\_\_ court. Following the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the new government decided it was against Islam for women to be judges, so Ebadi \_\_\_\_\_ a secretarial position.

Ebadi was allowed \_\_\_\_\_ lawyer in 1993. She famously defended high-profile cases, especially those who challenged Iran's leadership. She started campaigning \_\_\_\_\_ protection for women and children, gender equality, and democracy. She \_\_\_\_\_ against the physical abuse of children, which passed into law in 2002. She also founded the Children's Rights Support Association in Iran.

Winning the Nobel Prize propelled Ebadi \_\_\_\_\_ stage. The selection committee praised her as a "courageous person" who "has never \_\_\_\_\_ to her own safety". In 2008 she spoke about the dangers she faces in pursuing human rights: "Threats against my life and security and those of my family, which began \_\_\_\_\_, have intensified," she said.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of italics.

Shirin Ebadi, born in 1947, is an Iranian *lawyer / law* and human rights activist. She is most famous for winning the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize. The *panel / pane* of judges praised her significant and pioneering *effects / efforts* for democracy and human rights, especially women's and children's rights. She is the only Iranian and the first Muslim woman to *receive / received* the prize.

Ebadi grew up in Teheran and graduated in law in 1965. Four years later, she *qualified / qualification* to become a judge. In 1975, she became the first woman in her country to be in *change / charge* of a court. *Following / Followed* the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the new government decided it was against Islam for women to be judges, so Ebadi was *demoted / promoted* to a secretarial position.

Ebadi *was / has* allowed to practice as a lawyer in 1993. She famously defended high-profile cases, especially *them / those* who challenged Iran's leadership. She started campaigning *for / with* greater legal protection for women and children, gender equality, and democracy. She drafted a text against the physical abuse of children, which *past / passed* into law in 2002. She also founded the Children's Rights Support Association in Iran.

Winning the Nobel Prize *propped / propelled* Ebadi onto the world stage. The selection committee praised her *was / as* a "courageous person" who "has never *heeded / headed* the threat to her own safety". In 2008 she spoke about the dangers she faces in pursuing human rights: "Threats against my life and security and those of my family, which *began / begun* some time ago, have intensified," she said.

## SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

### *Paragraph 1*

1. an Iranian lawyer and human rights tiivtsca
2. The panel of judges sdireap her
3. pioneering otfehrs for democracy and human rights
4. the first Muslim woman to verceie the prize

### *Paragraph 2*

5. aaudertdg in law
6. she aiufeqldi to become a judge
7. the new government iddecde it was against Islam
8. Ebadi was demoted to a secretarial itpnisoo

### *Paragraph 3*

9. Ebadi was loaeldw to practice as a lawyer in 1993
10. high-pifeorl cases
11. greater lleag protection for women and children
12. the physical baues of children

### *Paragraph 4*

13. propelled Ebadi onto the world getsa
14. the threat to her own etyafs
15. she spoke about the dangers she cfaes
16. Threats against my life and tiysucre

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) stage. The selection committee praised her as a "courageous person" who "has never heeded the
- ( ) Ebadi grew up in Teheran and graduated in law in 1965. Four years later, she qualified
- ( ) my life and security and those of my family, which began some time ago, have intensified," she said.
- ( ) to become a judge. In 1975, she became the first woman in her country to be in charge of a
- ( ) women to be judges, so Ebadi was demoted to a secretarial position.
- ( ) abuse of children, which passed into law in 2002. She also founded the Children's Rights Support Association in Iran.
- ( ) Ebadi was allowed to practice as a lawyer in 1993. She famously defended
- ( ) threat to her own safety". In 2008 she spoke about the dangers she faces in pursuing human rights: "Threats against
- ( **1** ) Shirin Ebadi, born in 1947, is an Iranian lawyer and human rights activist. She is most famous for
- ( ) protection for women and children, gender equality, and democracy. She drafted a text against the physical
- ( ) rights, especially women's and children's rights. She is the only Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.
- ( ) court. Following the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the new government decided it was against Islam for
- ( ) Winning the Nobel Prize propelled Ebadi onto the world
- ( ) winning the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize. The panel of judges praised her significant and pioneering efforts for democracy and human
- ( ) high-profile cases, especially those who challenged Iran's leadership. She started campaigning for greater legal

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. activist Iranian and rights an lawyer human

---

2. efforts of her pioneering panel praised and The judges significant

---

3. the receive to woman Muslim first the prize

---

4. become to qualified she judge a

---

5. Ebadi demoted a position was to secretarial

---

6. 1993 allowed as in was practice lawyer Ebadi to a

---

7. for for women greater and legal children protection campaigning

---

8. person her The as selection a committee courageous praised

---

9. dangers faces spoke the she she about

---

10. those of my family Threats against my life and security and

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. What do you know about Shirin Ebadi?
2. Would you like to meet Shirin Ebadi?
3. What would you like to know about Shirin Ebadi and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. What did you learn from this text about Shirin Ebadi?
2. What questions would you like to ask Shirin Ebadi?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE SHIRIN EBADI SURVEY:

Write five questions about Shirin Ebadi in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Shirin Ebadi. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SHIRIN EBADI POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Shirin Ebadi. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Shirin Ebadi. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she does every day and what she thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Shirin Ebadi. Ask her three questions about her life. Give her three suggestions on what she should do in her future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Shirin Ebadi expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. activist        | a. campaigner |
| 2. significant     | b. major      |
| 3. pioneering      | c. original   |
| 4. be in charge of | d. control    |
| 5. following       | e. after      |
| 6. demoted         | f. downgraded |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                 |                 |
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| 8. drafted      | h. wrote        |
| 9. abuse        | i. mistreatment |
| 10. propelled   | j. launched     |
| 11. courageous  | k. brave        |
| 12. intensified | l. strengthened |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. human rights                            | a. activist                   |
| 2. judges praised her significant          | b. and pioneering efforts     |
| 3. she qualified                           | c. to become a judge          |
| 4. it was against Islam                    | d. for women to be judges     |
| 5. Ebadi was demoted to a                  | e. secretarial position       |
| 6. campaigning for greater legal           | f. protection for women       |
| 7. She drafted a text against the physical | g. abuse of children          |
| 8. Winning the Nobel Prize propelled       | h. Ebadi onto the world stage |
| 9. never heeded the threat                 | i. to her own safety          |
| 10. the dangers she faces in               | j. pursuing human rights      |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.