

# HELEN CLARK

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Helen Clark (born in 1950) is the 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand. She was in office between 1999 and 2008 and won three consecutive national elections. She is the second longest serving prime minister in NZ's history. In 2008, she won the UN Environment Programme Champions of the Earth award for her plan to make NZ the world's first carbon zero nation.

Clark grew up in a farming family and she developed a great love for the land. As a teenager, she became politically active. She protested against the Vietnam War and foreign military bases in New Zealand. She graduated from university with a Master's degree in politics in 1974. Her research was based on politics in the countryside.

Clark won her first election in 1981. She rose up through the ranks and served in different posts as Minister of Housing, Conservation, Health, and finally as Deputy Prime Minister. She has significantly reformed her country's welfare system. She introduced many popular measures, including raising the minimum wage six times and abolishing interest on student loans.

In 2008, Clark signed a landmark agreement that handed back land to the indigenous Maori population. She was a fierce opponent of the invasion of Iraq and criticized American actions. She has forged strong relations with China, whose president calls her an "old friend". She believes that "it's inevitable that NZ will become a republic" and "reflect the reality that NZ is a...21st century nation".

241 words

**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. consecutive | a. demonstrated |
| 2. serving     | b. country      |
| 3. nation      | c. in a row     |
| 4. love        | d. country      |
| 5. protested   | e. passion      |
| 6. countryside | f. working      |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 7. posts         | g. strong       |
| 8. significantly | h. mirror       |
| 9. abolishing    | i. historic     |
| 10. landmark     | j. positions    |
| 11. fierce       | k. ending       |
| 12. reflect      | l. considerably |

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

- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. She was in office                  | a. against the Vietnam War  |
| 2. the world's first carbon           | b. agreement                |
| 3. she developed a great              | c. in politics              |
| 4. She protested                      | d. zero nation              |
| 5. a Master's degree                  | e. through the ranks        |
| 6. She rose up                        | f. wage six times           |
| 7. She has significantly reformed her | g. between 1999 and 2008    |
| 8. raising the minimum                | h. the invasion of Iraq     |
| 9. Clark signed a landmark            | i. love for the land        |
| 10. She was a fierce opponent of      | j. country's welfare system |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Helen Clark (born in 1950) is the 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand. She \_\_\_\_\_ between 1999 and 2008 and won three consecutive national elections. She \_\_\_\_\_ longest serving prime minister in NZ's history. In 2008, she won the UN Environment Programme Champions of the Earth \_\_\_\_\_ to make NZ the world's first \_\_\_\_\_.

Clark \_\_\_\_\_ farming family and she developed a great \_\_\_\_\_. As a teenager, she became politically active. She protested against the Vietnam War and foreign \_\_\_\_\_ New Zealand. She graduated from university with a Master's degree in politics in 1974. Her research \_\_\_\_\_ politics in the countryside.

Clark won her first election in 1981. She \_\_\_\_\_ the ranks and served in different posts as Minister of Housing, Conservation, Health, and finally as Deputy Prime Minister. She has \_\_\_\_\_ her country's welfare system. She introduced many \_\_\_\_\_, including raising the minimum wage six times and abolishing \_\_\_\_\_ loans.

In 2008, Clark signed a \_\_\_\_\_ that handed back land to the indigenous Maori population. She was \_\_\_\_\_ the invasion of Iraq and criticized American actions. She has forged \_\_\_\_\_ with China, whose president calls her an "old friend". She believes that "it's inevitable that NZ will become a republic" and "\_\_\_\_\_ that NZ is a...21st century nation".

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Helen Clark (born in 1950) is the 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand. She was *on / in* office between 1999 and 2008 and won three consecutive *national / nation* elections. She is the *second / seconds* longest serving prime minister in NZ's history. In 2008, she won the UN Environment Programme Champions of the Earth award for her plan to make NZ the world's first carbon *nil / zero* nation.

Clark grew up in a farming family and she developed a *great / greet* love for the land. As a teenager, she became *politically / politics* active. She *protested / protected* against the Vietnam War and foreign military bases in New Zealand. She graduated from university with a Master's degree in politics in 1974. Her research was *basis / based* on politics in the countryside.

Clark won her first election in 1981. She *raised / rose* up through the ranks and served *in / on* different posts as Minister of Housing, Conservation, Health, and finally as Deputy Prime Minister. She *was / has* significantly reformed her country's welfare system. She introduced many popular measures, including *raising / lowering* the minimum wage six times and abolishing interest on student loans.

In 2008, Clark signed a landmark agreement that *handed / handing* back land to the indigenous Maori population. She was a *fiercely / fierce* opponent of the invasion of Iraq and criticized American actions. She has forged strong *relatives / relations* with China, whose president calls her an "old friend". She believes that "it's inevitable *that / so* NZ will become a republic" and "reflect the reality that NZ is a...21st century nation".

## SPELLING:

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

### *Paragraph 1*

1. She was in cieoff between 1999 and 2008
2. won three ocisevuentc national elections
3. the second longest engsivr prime minister
4. the world's first nbaroc zero nation

### *Paragraph 2*

5. Clark grew up in a nirfagm family
6. politically cvaiet
7. She protested ansagti the Vietnam War
8. a Master's degree in sctpilo

### *Paragraph 3*

9. rose up rhugtho the ranks
10. reformed her country's welfare mtessy
11. She introduced many apuoopl measures
12. abolishing etirtnse on student loans

### *Paragraph 4*

13. Clark igdnes a landmark agreement
14. a fierce opponent of the aosinnvi of Iraq
15. She has forged strong lrntaeois with China
16. reflect the teiarly that NZ is a...21st century nation

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) university with a Master's degree in politics in 1974. Her research was based on politics in the countryside.
- ( ) the UN Environment Programme Champions of the Earth award for her plan to make NZ the world's first carbon zero nation.
- ( ) Clark won her first election in 1981. She rose up through the ranks and served in different
- ( ) Clark grew up in a farming family and she developed a great love for the land. As a teenager, she became politically
- ( **1** ) Helen Clark (born in 1950) is the 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand. She was in office between 1999 and 2008 and won
- ( ) posts as Minister of Housing, Conservation, Health, and finally as Deputy Prime Minister. She has significantly
- ( ) In 2008, Clark signed a landmark agreement that handed back land to the
- ( ) and "reflect the reality that NZ is a...21st century nation".
- ( ) indigenous Maori population. She was a fierce opponent of the invasion of Iraq and criticized American
- ( ) reformed her country's welfare system. She introduced many popular measures, including raising the minimum
- ( ) active. She protested against the Vietnam War and foreign military bases in New Zealand. She graduated from
- ( ) three consecutive national elections. She is the second longest serving prime minister in NZ's history. In 2008, she won
- ( ) actions. She has forged strong relations with China, whose president calls her
- ( ) an "old friend". She believes that "it's inevitable that NZ will become a republic"
- ( ) wage six times and abolishing interest on student loans.

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. consecutive won national three elections

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2. in minister prime serving longest the second history NZ's

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3. zero nation her plan to make NZ the world's first carbon

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4. developed she land the for love great a

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5. protested She War Vietnam the against

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6. system country's reformed welfare her

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7. times six wage minimum the raising

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8. population Maori indigenous the to land back handed

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9. She forged relations China has strong with

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10. a inevitable NZ become republic that will

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**DISCUSSION (Write your questions):**

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

1. What do you know about Helen Clark?
2. Would you like to meet Helen Clark?
3. What would you like to know about Helen Clark 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 Helen Clark?
2. What questions would you like to ask Helen Clark?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE HELEN CLARK SURVEY:

Write five questions about Helen Clark 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.**

**WRITING:**

Write about Helen Clark for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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## 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 Helen Clark. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HELEN CLARK POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Helen Clark. 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 Helen Clark. 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 Helen Clark. 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 "Helen Clark expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. consecutive | a. in a row     |
| 2. serving     | b. working      |
| 3. nation      | c. country      |
| 4. love        | d. passion      |
| 5. protested   | e. demonstrated |
| 6. countryside | f. country      |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 7. posts         | g. positions    |
| 8. significantly | h. considerably |
| 9. abolishing    | i. ending       |
| 10. landmark     | j. historic     |
| 11. fierce       | k. strong       |
| 12. reflect      | l. mirror       |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. She was in office                  | a. between 1999 and 2008    |
| 2. the world's first carbon           | b. zero nation              |
| 3. she developed a great              | c. love for the land        |
| 4. She protested                      | d. against the Vietnam War  |
| 5. a Master's degree                  | e. in politics              |
| 6. She rose up                        | f. through the ranks        |
| 7. She has significantly reformed her | g. country's welfare system |
| 8. raising the minimum                | h. wage six times           |
| 9. Clark signed a landmark            | i. agreement                |
| 10. She was a fierce opponent of      | j. the invasion of Iraq     |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.