

CRISTINA KIRCHNER

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CONTENTS:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Synonym Match and Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Choose the Correct Word	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Student Survey	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Cristina Kirchner (born February 19, 1953) is an Argentine lawyer and the current President of Argentina. She is the wife of former President Nestor Kirchner. Before she became president, she was a Senator for Buenos Aires and First Lady during her husband's term. She swept to power in October 2007. She crushed the other candidates, with a 22% lead over her nearest rival.

Kirchner briefly started out in politics in the 1970s. However, due to the authoritarian rule in her country, she dropped out to practice law. She re-entered politics in the late 1980s and in 1995, she became a senator. She was a guiding light behind her husband's successful presidential campaign in 2003. She gained a reputation for being a strong speaker and won many admirers.

Kirchner is Argentina's second female president. She is the first wife in any country's history to be elected to succeed her husband as leader. She is often compared to Eva 'Evita' Peron but always rejects the comparisons. She once said the only similarity is "the hair in a bun and the clenched fist before a microphone".

Kirchner immediately faced some mighty challenges upon taking power. She had to tackle high inflation, unions demanding higher salaries, corruption, and a credit crisis. She introduced some very unpopular taxes and her popularity nosedived. A poll taken in April 2008 showed her disapproval rating was at 61.8%. She needs to dig deep to turn around her country's economy and her own political fortunes.

246 words

Flesch Kinkaid 10.3

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. lawyer | a. dictatorial |
| 2. former | b. opponent |
| 3. rival | c. name |
| 4. authoritarian | d. attorney |
| 5. reputation | e. fans |
| 6. admirers | f. ex- |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 7. succeed | g. similarities |
| 8. comparisons | h. dropped |
| 9. clenched | i. position |
| 10. mighty | j. follow |
| 11. nosedived | k. closed tightly |
| 12. fortunes | l. huge |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. She swept to | a. light |
| 2. a 22% lead over | b. power in October 2007 |
| 3. Kirchner briefly started | c. her nearest rival |
| 4. a guiding | d. inflation |
| 5. won many | e. husband as leader |
| 6. succeed her | f. mighty challenges |
| 7. She is often compared | g. out in politics in the 1970s |
| 8. faced some | h. her country's economy |
| 9. She had to tackle high | i. admirers |
| 10. She needs to dig deep to turn around | j. to Eva 'Evita' Peron |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Cristina Kirchner (born February 19, 1953) is an Argentine lawyer _____ President of Argentina. She is the _____ President Nestor Kirchner. Before she became president, she was a Senator for Buenos Aires and First Lady during her _____. She swept to power in October 2007. She crushed the other candidates, with a 22% _____ nearest rival.

Kirchner briefly started _____ the 1970s. However, due to the authoritarian rule in her country, she _____ practice law. She re-entered politics in the late 1980s and in 1995, she became a senator. She was a guiding _____ husband's successful presidential campaign in 2003. She gained a reputation for being a strong speaker and _____.

Kirchner is Argentina's second female president. She _____ any country's history to be elected to succeed her _____. She is often compared to Eva 'Evita' Peron but _____ comparisons. She once said _____ is "the hair in a bun and the clenched fist before a microphone".

Kirchner immediately _____ challenges upon taking power. She _____ high inflation, unions demanding higher salaries, corruption, and a credit crisis. She introduced some very unpopular taxes and her _____. A poll taken in April 2008 showed her disapproval rating was at 61.8%. She needs to _____ around her country's economy and her own political fortunes.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Cristina Kirchner (born February 19, 1953) is an Argentine lawyer and the *currant / current* President of Argentina. She is the wife of *former / firmer* President Nestor Kirchner. Before she became president, she was a Senator for Buenos Aires and First Lady during her husband's *team / term*. She swept to power in October 2007. She crushed the other candidates, with a 22% lead *under / over* her nearest rival.

Kirchner *briefly / briefs* started out in politics in the 1970s. However, *because / due* to the authoritarian rule in her country, she dropped *out / in* to practice law. She re-entered politics in the late 1980s and in 1995, she became a senator. She was a guiding light behind her husband's successful presidential campaign in 2003. She gained a reputation for being a strong speaker and won *much / many* admirers.

Kirchner is Argentina's second female president. She is the first wife *in / on* any country's history to be elected to succeed her *wife / husband* as leader. She is often *compared / comparison* to Eva 'Evita' Peron but always rejects the comparisons. She once said the only *similarity / similar* is "the hair in a bun and the clenched fist before a microphone".

Kirchner immediately faced some *mighty / might* challenges upon taking power. She had to *tackle / trickle* high inflation, unions demanding higher salaries, corruption, and a credit crisis. She introduced some very unpopular *taxis / taxes* and her popularity nosedived. A *poll / pole* taken in April 2008 showed her disapproval rating was at 61.8%. She needs to dig deep to turn around her country's economy and her own political fortunes.

SPELLING:

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

Paragraph 1

1. the nrrutce President of Argentina
2. the wife of rrefmo President Nestor Kirchner
3. She tepws to power in October 2007
4. a 22% lead over her staenre rival

Paragraph 2

5. Kirchner elirfyb started out in politics in the 1970s
6. she dorpepd out to practice law
7. a iigundg light
8. won many radmsier

Paragraph 3

9. Kirchner is Argentina's second felame president
10. cdsueec her husband as leader
11. She is often apedcrom to Eva 'Evita' Peron
12. the only jayrmitils

Paragraph 4

13. Kirchner immediately cfdae some mighty challenges
14. She had to tlacek high inflation
15. a credit isrisc
16. her disapproval tgnrai was at 61.8%

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Kirchner immediately faced some mighty challenges upon taking power. She had to tackle high inflation, unions
- (**1**) Cristina Kirchner (born February 19, 1953) is an Argentine lawyer and the current President of Argentina. She is the
- () Kirchner briefly started out in politics in the 1970s. However, due to the authoritarian rule in her country, she dropped
- () out to practice law. She re-entered politics in the late 1980s and in 1995, she became a senator. She was a guiding
- () demanding higher salaries, corruption, and a credit crisis. She introduced some very unpopular taxes and her popularity
- () wife of former President Nestor Kirchner. Before she became president, she was a Senator for Buenos Aires and First
- () her husband as leader. She is often compared to Eva 'Evita' Peron but always rejects the comparisons. She once said the
- () the other candidates, with a 22% lead over her nearest rival.
- () only similarity is "the hair in a bun and the clenched fist before a microphone".
- () light behind her husband's successful presidential campaign in 2003. She gained a
- () reputation for being a strong speaker and won many admirers.
- () deep to turn around her country's economy and her own political fortunes.
- () Lady during her husband's term. She swept to power in October 2007. She crushed
- () Kirchner is Argentina's second female president. She is the first wife in any country's history to be elected to succeed
- () nosedived. A poll taken in April 2008 showed her disapproval rating was at 61.8%. She needs to dig

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. the Nestor wife Kirchner of She former is President

2. She to in 2007 swept power October

3. % a rival nearest her over lead 22

4. to out dropped she law practice

5. being gained a a strong reputation speaker for She

6. often 'Evita' compared Peron to She Eva is

7. fist clenched the microphone a before

8. immediately Kirchner challenges mighty some faced

9. inflation high tackle to had She

10. turn around her country's economy She needs to dig deep to

DISCUSSION (Write your questions):

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

1. What do you know about Cristina Kirchner?
2. Would you like to meet Cristina Kirchner?
3. What would you like to know about Cristina Kirchner and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your questions):

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

1. What did you learn from this text about Cristina Kirchner?
2. What questions would you like to ask Cristina Kirchner?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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THE CRISTINA KIRCHNER SURVEY:

Write five questions about Cristina Kirchner 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 Cristina Kirchner. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CRISTINA KIRCHNER POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Cristina Kirchner. 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 Cristina Kirchner. 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 Cristina Kirchner. 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 "Cristina Kirchner expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. lawyer | a. attorney |
| 2. former | b. ex- |
| 3. rival | c. opponent |
| 4. authoritarian | d. dictatorial |
| 5. reputation | e. name |
| 6. admirers | f. fans |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 7. succeed | g. follow |
| 8. comparisons | h. similarities |
| 9. clenched | i. closed tightly |
| 10. mighty | j. huge |
| 11. nosedived | k. dropped |
| 12. fortunes | l. position |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. She swept to | a. power in October 2007 |
| 2. a 22% lead over | b. her nearest rival |
| 3. Kirchner briefly started | c. out in politics in the 1970s |
| 4. a guiding | d. light |
| 5. won many | e. admirers |
| 6. succeed her | f. husband as leader |
| 7. She is often compared | g. to Eva 'Evita' Peron |
| 8. faced some | h. mighty challenges |
| 9. She had to tackle high | i. inflation |
| 10. She needs to dig deep to turn around | j. her country's economy |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.