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Level 2 – 23rd October 2025

Japan elects its first ever female prime minister

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

Japan has its first female prime minister. Sanae Takaichi, 64, was elected as the country's 104th prime minister. She won 237 votes in Japan's parliament. Her opponent won 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes over from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was in power for a year. To get enough votes to win the election, Takaichi made an alliance with a right-wing party. She has a difficult job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about rising food prices, job security, and a falling birth rate. They are also worried about how to care for the growing number of old people.

Sanae Takaichi has had an interesting life. At university, she played drums in a rock band. She supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She also had a powerful Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved to the USA. She wrote books about American politics. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor. Women hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender equality and diversity. However, she does not support same-sex marriage. She also opposes allowing separate surnames for married couples.

Sources: <https://apnews.com/article/japan-first-female-prime-minister-vote-trump-24b4a5e2a2b777139de66e38665ced0d>
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20251021/p2g/00m/0na/030000c>
<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/16104830>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanae_Takaichi

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. elected as the country's | a. won 149 votes |
| 2. She won 237 votes in Japan's | b. of old people |
| 3. Her opponent | c. parliament |
| 4. He was in power | d. right-wing party |
| 5. Takaichi made an alliance with a | e. food prices |
| 6. She has a difficult job | f. 104th prime minister |
| 7. unhappy about rising | g. for a year |
| 8. care for the growing number | h. ahead of her |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sanae Takaichi has had | a. and diversity |
| 2. In 1987, Takaichi moved | b. American politics |
| 3. She wrote books about | c. couples |
| 4. she worked as a | d. sex marriage |
| 5. support gender equality | e. TV anchor |
| 6. she does not support same- | f. an interesting life |
| 7. allowing separate | g. to the USA |
| 8. married | h. surnames |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

Japan has its first female prime minister. Sanae Takaichi, 64, (1) _____ the country's 104th prime minister. She won 237 votes in Japan's parliament. (2) _____ 149 votes. Ms Takaichi takes over from former leader Shigeru Ishiba. He was (3) _____ a year. To get enough votes to win the election, Takaichi made (4) _____ a right-wing party. She has a difficult job ahead of her. Japanese people are unhappy about (5) _____, job security, and a falling birth rate. They are also worried about how to care for (6) _____ of old people.

Sanae Takaichi has (7) _____ life. At university, she (8) _____ a rock band. She supports the Gamba Osaka soccer team and the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. She also (9) _____ Kawasaki Z400 motorbike. In 1987, Takaichi moved to the USA. She wrote books (10) _____. In 1989, she worked as a TV anchor. Women hope Takaichi's background means she will support gender (11) _____. However, she does not support same-sex marriage. She also opposes allowing (12) _____ married couples.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

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POLITICAL LEADERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about political leaders in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

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

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251023-sanae-takaichi-2.html>

Write about **political leaders** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]