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# Intensive Listening

## Unit **1** A Woman's Place

### Objectives:

- Learn to catch the main ideas and supporting details of a text
- Learn more about women's position in society
- Learn more about the social changes that have affected women's lives
- Get familiar with words and expressions used in discussions of the role of women



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## Task 1 Torn between two choices

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In this task, you will hear about the dilemma of a young female professional.

### 1. Listen to the recording and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [ ] 1) The couple are British.
- [ ] 2) If they accepted the offer, they would have to rent an apartment in New Jersey.
- [ ] 3) The wife's mother had a car accident and is hospitalized.
- [ ] 4) Their colleagues in New Jersey are very sympathetic and will keep the positions open for them.
- [ ] 5) The wife is desperate because her mother has become a permanent invalid.

### 2. Listen again and choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1) When the speaker says that they have accepted an exchange job, it means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. they are going to work permanently in the United States
  - B. they will work in the United States for a period of time
  - C. they will emigrate to the United States
- 2) When the speaker wonders who has the first call, it means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. who will first call on her mother
  - B. who will phone her first
  - C. who needs her more urgently
- 3) The speaker finds it difficult to decide what to do, because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. she is worried that her mother might become a permanent invalid
  - B. she is torn between her responsibility for her mother and her responsibility for her husband
  - C. she really wants to teach in the United States

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## Task 2 Emma Watson calling for university parity

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In this task, you will watch Emma Watson's speech to call for men to safeguard gender equality, especially at universities.

### Listening aids

catalyst /'kætəlɪst/ *n.* a person or thing that causes a change 促使变化的人，引发变化的因素

### 1. Watch the video clip and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) According to Emma Watson, which of the following is NOT a problem of the university experience?
  - A. Women don't belong in leadership.
  - B. Women cannot study at all.
  - C. Women don't belong to universities.
  - D. Sexual violence isn't a form of violence.
- 2) "A university should be a place of **refuge** that takes action against all forms of violence." Which of the following is NOT a correct interpretation of the meaning of the word "refuge"?
  - A. A place where people can be protected.
  - B. A place where people can escape and forget about violence in society.
  - C. A place where people can be safe from violence in society.
  - D. A place where people can prepare themselves to fight against violence in society.

### 2. Watch the video clip for a second time and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1) Emma Watson was addressing women and calling them to fight for their own rights.
- 2) Emma Watson recalled her mentor, Brown, who had influenced her in significant ways.
- 3) Emma Watson was mainly calling for changes at universities.

### 3. Watch the video clip for a third time and fill in the blanks.

- 1) As we leave home for the first time to study at the places that we have worked so hard to get, we must not see or experience \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) And so importantly, right now, the experience must make it clear that the safety of women, \_\_\_\_\_, and anyone who may be \_\_\_\_\_ is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and not a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, a right that will be respected by a community that believes and supports \_\_\_\_\_, and that recognizes that when one person's safety is violated, everyone feels that \_\_\_\_\_ safety is violated.
- 3) That's why we believe that students should leave university \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ societies of true equality, societies of true equality in every sense, and that universities have the power to be a vital \_\_\_\_\_ for that change.

## Task 3 Mary Laney

In this task, you will hear an interview with Mary Laney about her career path.

**1. Listen to the interview and explain the meaning of the phrases in bold.**

- 1) I've always **kept up with the newspapers**, faithfully read news magazines, and learned to really enjoy books.  
Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) He would tell me I'd **be better off** if I got my education and a start in my work first.  
Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) I wanted very much to **put myself through school**.  
Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) There were no women I know of doing television interviewing then, but I didn't think that should **keep me back**.  
Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) I had a little trouble **getting ahead** at first.  
Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Listen again and fill in the blanks.**

- 1) My father always told me that an education was \_\_\_\_\_, one that would always stay with me. He used to tell me that \_\_\_\_\_ and encouraged me \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) My mother would tell me the story of the Ugly Duckling, who grew up \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Reading, speaking and acting \_\_\_\_\_. When I reached college, I felt I would like to major in speech and later get a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) My boss said that I shouldn't be on camera \_\_\_\_\_ because people would resent hearing the news \_\_\_\_\_ and audiences would not believe a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) I've always felt that it was important to \_\_\_\_\_ and to accomplish things \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Task **4** Gender roles

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In this task, you will hear about the unfair gender roles assigned to women and men.

**1. Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks.**

- 1) After all, \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_, determines whether or not you're able to \_\_\_\_\_ children. But culture does shape the roles men and women play in our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ relationships: We are born \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but we are made \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Sociologists distinguish between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, between one's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we learn to associate with each sex.

- 2) The American writer James Fenimore Cooper remarked that women's \_\_\_\_\_ and "necessary" \_\_\_\_\_ made them unsuitable for participation in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Such beliefs have been remarkably \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States. It took over \_\_\_\_\_ of hard political work by both \_\_\_\_\_ to win the right to vote.
- 4) What's defined as "women's work"—\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_—is devalued and largely uncompensated.
- 5) Social pressure to "be a man" can contribute to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and may be partially responsible for men's \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Listen again and answer the following questions.

- 1) What did James Fenimore Cooper argue in his 1832 treatise?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What anxieties do contemporary anti-feminist campaigns voice?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Why do women continue to suffer economic inequities?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What did the 1980 study by the World Labor Organization show?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Task 5 *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and the celebration of white feminism

In this task, you will learn about "white feminism."

### Listening aids

**critique** /kri'ti:k/ *n.* a piece of criticism of a set of ideas 评论

**deplorable** /di'plɔ:rəbəl/ *adj.* regrettable 可悲的

**hilarious** /hi'leəriəs/ *adj.* extremely funny 极有趣的

**joint** /dʒɔɪnt/ *n.* (*informal*) a cheap bar, club, or restaurant 廉价酒吧 (俱乐部、餐厅)

**meltdown** /'meltðaʊn/ *n.* an uncontrolled emotional outburst or a mental collapse 崩溃

**oblivious** /ə'blɪviəs/ *adj.* not aware of something 未察觉的

**protagonist** /prəʊ'tæɡənɪst/ *n.* the main character in a play, film or book (戏剧、电影、书的) 主角

**smudge** /smʌdʒ/ *v.* to touch or rub something, especially wet ink or paint, so that it is no longer clear 把……  
擦模糊

**stand-up comedian** someone who tells jokes to an audience 单口喜剧演员

**Listen to the recording and complete the summary of the main ideas.**

- I. Surface message of Midge's story: some kind of feminism
- A. The story: Everything is going perfectly for her until her husband leaves her for his secretary. After an emotional and hilarious total meltdown, Midge decides to become a stand-up 1) \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The poster: a woman in an ocean of men, looking at the audience with confidence
- C. Midge's stand-up act: 2) \_\_\_\_\_ of Midge's own life, her marriage, her husband, her mother...
- II. Deep meaning: white feminism
- A. Midge is intensely aware of her position as a woman compared with a man of the same social status, but is, at the same time, completely 3) \_\_\_\_\_ to her own privileges.
- Her privileges: She was born into a(n) 4) \_\_\_\_\_ family. She was highly 5) \_\_\_\_\_. She has never had to worry about 6) \_\_\_\_\_. Her husband, her 7) \_\_\_\_\_ apartment, her Dior and Chanel, her freedom to go party while leaving her children with sitter or her parents...
  - A long tradition of generations of white feminists, starting with pioneers like 8) \_\_\_\_\_. Even when our Midge or Elizabeths do have shortcomings, these tend to be 9) \_\_\_\_\_ such as pride or stubbornness which 10) \_\_\_\_\_, rather than 11) \_\_\_\_\_, their character.
- B. The 12) \_\_\_\_\_ blinds white feminists from seeing the world as it truly is and all Midge cares about is her status and her 13) \_\_\_\_\_ pursuits.
- Examples: She isn't concerned with 14) \_\_\_\_\_, McCarthyism, not even 15) \_\_\_\_\_.
- The statement of white privilege: If it doesn't 16) \_\_\_\_\_, it doesn't 17) \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Task 6 Is feminism still relevant?

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In this task, you will learn about why feminism is still relevant.

**1. Listen to the recording and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).**

- [ ] 1) Everybody agrees that women only needed feminism thirty years ago when it was unheard of for women to be Supreme Court justices and space shuttle pilots.
- [ ] 2) The speaker thinks that the messages young women receive about how they should look are very harmful.
- [ ] 3) Young women today are respected and appreciated for who they are.

- [ ] 4) When the speaker says “But we’re not there yet,” she means women don’t yet have the freedom to take full advantage of their abilities.

**2. Listen again and complete the following notes.**

I. Some people say feminism is outdated and unnecessary.

Reasons: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_

II. The speaker argues that feminism is still relevant.

Reasons: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_  
7) \_\_\_\_\_  
8) \_\_\_\_\_

III. The speaker claims in the end that:

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Task **7** Mrs. Spiden’s advertisement

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In this task, you will hear an interview about what Mrs. Spiden wants to get rid of and why.

**1. Listen to the interview and answer the following questions.**

1) How many people live in the Spidens’s flat? Who are they?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Describe a typical day in the life of Mrs. Spiden.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What is Mr. Spiden’s job? Why does he sleep in the mornings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4) What did Mrs. Spiden do when she decided to rebel?

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5) What was Mr. Spiden's reaction to the advertisement?

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6) What was Mr. Penman's attitude toward the incident?

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2. Listen again and discuss the story with your partner. Express your opinion about the incident.

I approve/disapprove of Mrs. Spiden's way of dealing with the problem because \_\_\_\_\_

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## Task 8 Why we have too few women leaders (I)

In this task, you will watch the first part of a video clip about Sheryl Sandberg's advice for professional women.

### Listening aids

**corner office** an office of the top management of a company 角落办公室，总裁或总经理等最高管理层的办公室

**dialectic** /ˌdaɪəˈlektɪk/ *n.* the philosophical system of asserting truth by resolving the differences that exist between factors in a particular situation 辩证法

**exec** /ɪgˈzɛk/ *n.* an informal word for executive executive 的非正式说法

**pre-med** /ˈpriːmed/ *n.* a student on a premedical course 医学院预科生

1. Watch the video clip and choose the best answer to the following question.

Which of the following is NOT a sign that women underestimate themselves?

- A. They sit on the side of the room instead of at the table.
- B. They don't usually negotiate their first salary.
- C. They don't usually attribute their success to themselves.
- D. They usually have corner offices.

**2. Watch the video clip again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).**

- [ ] 1) The speaker's brother didn't work hard on European Intellectual History at college because he was too busy.
- [ ] 2) The speaker used to use a very old blue notebook for her exams.
- [ ] 3) If you test men and women, and you ask them questions on totally objective criteria like GPAs, men tend to overestimate their performances and women tend to underestimate themselves.

## Task **9** Why we have too few women leaders (II)

In this task, you will watch the second part of a video clip about Sheryl Sandberg's advice for professional women.

**1. Watch the video clip and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).**

- [ ] 1) Working mothers usually work harder than men, because they do two or three jobs, while men usually only do one job.
- [ ] 2) Gender discrimination against women is unfair for men too, because househusbands are generally not well accepted.
- [ ] 3) The speaker doesn't think her generation is going to change the percentage of women working at the top of any industry.

**2. Watch the video clip again and answer the following questions.**

- 1) What does the speaker mean by "don't leave before you leave"?

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- 2) Why does the speaker make the suggestion "don't leave before you leave"?

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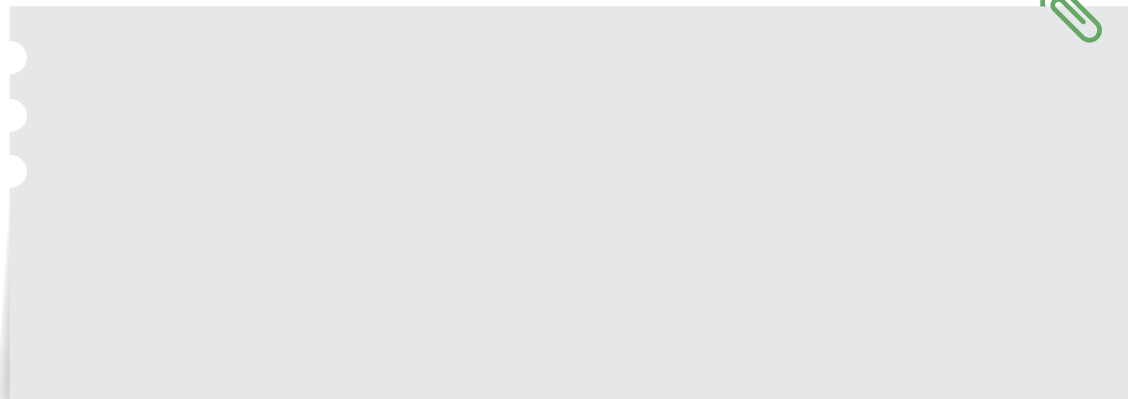
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## Task **10** A career woman as a mother

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Dictation: Even when a mother has a professional job, child-rearing will often remain her responsibility. Listen to the following passage. Altogether it will be read to you four times.



# Extensive Listening



# Unit 1 A Woman's Place

Listen to the recordings and answer the following questions.

## 1 Gender inequality is your issue too

1. What is the main purpose of this “HeForShe” campaign?
2. Why does the speaker want to start this campaign?

## 2 I'll never understand my wife

1. What was the message on the speaker's bumper sticker?
2. Why did the husband say that he did not understand his wife? What, in your opinion, was his attitude toward his wife?

## 3 Women's education

1. Why did Mary Lyon believe that women should be better educated?
2. What kind of school did Mary Lyon want to set up for women? How did she go about it?
3. What was the name of the school Mary Lyon opened in 1837? What was the significance of setting up this school?
4. What are historians' comments on Mary Lyon?

## 4 Gardening

1. How did Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Johnson feel about their gardens?
2. Why didn't Mr. Smith like gardening?

## 5 The fight for equality

1. When did American women win the right to vote?
2. How did American women help during World War I?
3. How did the Nineteenth Amendment change the lives of American women?

## 6 Dad had lost all purpose in life

1. Why did the speaker say that her father died in self-defense?
2. What did the children do to comfort their mother after their father died?
3. How did their mother react to her husband's death?
4. What annoyed the speaker after her father's death?

# Script

## 1 Gender inequality is your issue too

Today we are launching a campaign called “HeForShe.”

I am reaching out to you because we need your help. We want to end gender inequality—and to do this we need everyone involved.

This is the first campaign of its kind at the UN. We want to try and galvanize as many men and boys as possible to be advocates for change. And we don't just want to talk about it. We want to try and make sure that it's tangible.

I was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women six months ago, and the more I've spoken about feminism, the more I have realized that fighting for women's rights has too often become synonymous with man-hating. If there is one thing I know for certain, it is that this has to stop.

For the record, feminism by definition is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. It is the theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes.

I started questioning gender-based assumptions a long time ago. When I was eight, I was confused for being called “bossy,” because I wanted to direct the plays that we would put on for our parents—but the boys were not.

When at 14 I started to be sexualized by certain elements of the media.

When at 15 my girlfriends started dropping out of their beloved sports teams because they didn't want to appear “muscly.”

When at 18 my male friends were unable to express their feelings.

I decided that I was a feminist and this seemed uncomplicated to me. But my recent research has shown me that feminism has become an unpopular word.

Women are choosing not to identify as feminists. Apparently, I am among the ranks of women whose expressions are seen as too strong, too aggressive, isolating, and anti-men. Unattractive even.

Why has the word become such an uncomfortable one?

I am from Britain and I think it is right that I am paid the same as my male counterparts. I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in the policies and decisions that will affect my life. I think it is right that socially I am afforded the same respect as men. But sadly, I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights.

No country in the world can yet say that they have achieved gender equality.

These rights I consider to be human rights. But I am one of the lucky ones. My life is a sheer privilege because my parents didn't love me less because I was born a daughter. My school did not limit me because I was a girl. My mentors didn't assume that I would go less far because I might give birth to a child one day. These influencers were the gender equality ambassadors that made me who I am today. They may not know it, but they are the inadvertent feminists who are changing the world today. We need more of those.

And if you still hate the word, it is not the word that is important. It's the idea and the ambition behind it. Because not all women have received the same rights that I have. In fact,

statistically, very few have been.

In 1997 (1995), Hilary Clinton made a famous speech in Beijing about women's rights. Sadly, many of the things that she wanted to change are still true today.

But what stood out for me the most was that less than 30 per cent of the audience were male. How can we affect change in the world when only half of it is invited or feel(s) welcome to participate in the conversation?

Men, I would like to take this opportunity to extend ~~your~~ (our) formal invitation. Gender equality is your issue too.

Because to date, I've seen my father's role as a parent being valued less by society despite my needing his presence as a child as much as my mother's.

I've seen young men suffering from mental illness, unable to ask for help for fear it would make them less of men or less of a man. In fact, in the UK, suicide is the biggest killer of men between 20-49, eclipsing road accidents, cancer and coronary heart disease. I've seen men made fragile and insecure by a distorted sense of what constitutes male success. Men don't have the benefits of equality either.

We don't often talk about men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes, but I can see that they are and when they are free, things will change for women as a natural consequence.

If men don't have to be aggressive in order to be accepted, women won't feel compelled to be submissive. If men don't have to control, women won't have to be controlled.

Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong... It is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum instead of two sets of

opposing ideals.

If we stop defining each other by what we are not and start defining ourselves by who we are, we can all be freer and this is what HeForShe is about. It's about freedom.

I want men to take up this mantle, so that their daughters, sisters and mothers can be free from prejudice, but also so that their sons have permission to be vulnerable and human too—reclaim those parts of themselves they abandoned, and in doing so be a more true and complete version of themselves.

You might be thinking, "Who is this *Harry Potter* girl? And what is she doing speaking at the UN?" And it's a really good question. I've been asking myself the same thing. All I know is that I care about this problem. And I want to make it better.

And having seen what I've seen—and given the chance—I feel it is my responsibility to say something. Statesman Edmund Burke said, "All that is needed for the forces of evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing."

In my nervousness for this speech and in my moments of doubt, I've told myself firmly: If not me, who? If not now, when? If you have similar doubts when opportunities are presented to you, I hope that those words will be helpful.

Because the reality is that if we do nothing, it will take 75 years, or for me to be nearly a hundred before women can expect to be paid the same as men for the same work; 15.5 million girls will be married in the next 16 years as children; and at current rates it won't be until 2086 before all rural African girls can have a secondary education.

If you believe in equality, you might be one of those inadvertent feminists that I spoke of earlier.



And for this, I applaud you.

We are struggling for a uniting word, but the good news is, that we have a uniting movement. It is called HeForShe. I am inviting you to step forward, to be seen and to ask yourself: If not me, who? If not now, when?

Thank you very very much.

## 2 I'll never understand my wife

I'll never understand my wife. The day she moved in with me, she started opening and closing my kitchen cabinets, gasping, "You don't have any shelf paper! We're going to have to get some shelf paper in here before I move my dishes in."

"But why?" I asked innocently. "To keep the dishes clean," she answered matter-of-factly.

I didn't understand how the dust would magically migrate off the dishes if they had sticky blue paper under them, but I knew when to be quiet.

Then came the day when I left the toilet seat up. "We never left the toilet seat up in my family," she scolded. "It's impolite."

"It wasn't impolite in my family," I said sheepishly. "Your family didn't have cats."

In addition to these lessons, I also learned how I was supposed to squeeze the toothpaste tube, which towel to use after a shower and where the spoons are supposed to go when I set the table. I had no idea I was so uneducated.

No, I'll never understand my wife.

She alphabetizes her spices, washes dishes before sending them through the dishwasher, and sorts laundry into different piles before throwing it into the washing machine. Can you imagine?

She has a coat that makes her look like

Sherlock Holmes. "I could get you a new coat," I offered.

"No. This one was my grandmother's," she said, decisively ending the conversation.

Then, after we had kids, she acted even stranger, wearing those pajamas all day long, eating breakfast at 1:00 pm, carrying around a diaper bag the size of a minivan, talking in one-syllable paragraphs. She carried our baby everywhere—on her back, on her front, in her arms, over her shoulder.

She never set her down, even when other young mothers shook their heads as they set down the car seat with their baby in it, or peered down into their playpens. What an oddity she was, clutching that child!

My wife also chose to nurse her even when her friends told her not to bother. She picked up the baby whenever she cried, even though people told her it was healthy to let her wail. "It's good for her lungs to cry," they would say. "It's better for her heart to smile," she'd answer.

One day a friend of mine snickered at the bumper sticker my wife had put on the back of our car—"Being a Stay-at-Home Mom Is a Work of Heart."

"My wife must have put that on there," I said.

"My wife works," he boasted.

"So does mine," I said, smiling.

Once, I was filling out one of those warranty registration cards and I checked "homemaker" for my wife's occupation. Big mistake. She glanced over it and quickly corrected me. "I'm not a homemaker. I'm not a housewife. I am a mother."

"But there's no category for that," I stammered.

"Add one," she said.

I did.

And then one day, a few years later, she lay in bed smiling when I got up to go to work. “What’s wrong?” I asked.

“Nothing. Everything is wonderful. I didn’t have to get up at all last night to calm the kids. And they didn’t crawl in bed with us.”

“Oh,” I said, still not understanding.

“It was the first time I’ve slept through the night in four years.”

It was? Four years? That’s a long time. I hadn’t even noticed. Why hadn’t she ever complained? I would have.

One day, in one thoughtless moment, I said something that sent her fleeing to the bedroom in tears. I went in to apologize. She knew I meant it because by then I was crying, too. “I forgive you,” she said. And she did. She never brought it up again. She forgave, and she forgot.

No, I’ll never understand my wife. And you know what? Our daughter is acting more and more like her mother every day. If she turns out to be anything like her mom, someday there’s going to be one more lucky guy in this world, thankful for the shelf paper in his cupboard.

### 3 Women’s education

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During the 19th century, women’s education was not considered important in the United States. Supporters of advanced education for women faced many problems. States did require each town to provide a school for children, but teachers often were poorly prepared. Most young women were not able to continue on with their education in private schools. If they did, they were often not taught much except the French language, how to sew clothing, and music.

Mary Lyon felt that women’s education was extremely important. Through her lifelong work for education she became one of the most famous women in 19th-century America. She believed that women were teachers both in the home and in the classroom. If women were better educated, she felt, they could teach in local schools throughout the United States and in foreign countries.

At the age of four, Mary began walking to the nearest school several kilometers away. Later, she began spending three months at a time with her friends and relatives so she could attend other area schools.

She helped clean and cook to pay for her stay. Mary’s love of learning was so strong that she worked and saved her small amount of pay so she could go to school for another few months.

Mary began her first teaching job at a one-room local school—teaching children for the summer.

She was 17 years old. Mary Lyon was not a very successful teacher at first. Yet she soon won their parents’ respect with her skills.

When Mary Lyon was 20 years old, she began a long period of study and teaching. A new private school opened in the village of Ashfield, Massachusetts. It was called Sanderson Academy. And she used everything she had saved from her pay as a teacher. This was enough for her to begin attending Sanderson Academy. At Sanderson, Mary began to study more difficult subjects. These included science, history and Latin. It is said that Mary memorized a complete book about the Latin language in three days. Mary later wrote it was at Sanderson that she received the base of her education.

In 1821, Mary Lyon went to another private school where she was taught by Reverend Joseph Emerson. Mary said he talked to women “as if they had brains.” She praised his equal treatment of men and women when it came to educating them. Three years later, Mary Lyon opened a school for young women in the village of Buckland. She called it the Buckland Female Seminary. Mary’s students praised her teaching. She proposed new ways of teaching, including holding discussion groups where students exchange ideas. Mary said it was while teaching at Buckland that she first thought of founding a private school open to daughters of farmers and skilled workers. She wanted education, not profits, to be the most important thing about the school. She also began to raise money for her dream of a permanent, non-profit school for the higher education of women. This school would own its own property. It would be guided by an independent group of directors. Its finances would be the responsibility of the directors, not of investors seeking profit. The school would not depend on any one person to continue. And, the students would share in cleaning and cooking to keep costs down.

Mary Lyon opened Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1837. She had raised more than 12,000 dollars. It was enough to build a five-story building. Four teachers and the first class of 80 young women lived and studied in the building when the school opened. By the next year, the number of students had increased to 116. Mary knew the importance of what had been established—the first independent school for the higher education of women.

Mary Lyon was head of the school for almost 12 years. She died in 1849; she was 52 years old.

She left behind a school of higher education

for women. In 1893, under a state law, Mount Holyoke Female Seminary became a college. Mount Holyoke College was the first college to offer women the same kind of education as was offered to men.

People who have studied Mary Lyon say she was not fighting a battle of equality between men and women. Yet she knew she wanted more for women. Her efforts led to the spread of higher education for women in the United States. Historians say she was the strongest influence on the education of American young people during the middle of the 19th century. Her influence lasted, as the many students from Mary Lyon’s schools went to teach others.

## 4 Gardening

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**Mrs. Smith:** It’s so lovely to have a garden!

**Mrs. Johnson:** Yes, isn’t it? When the flowers are out and the colours mix so well, you really feel proud of your work. Does your husband help in the garden? Mine does, he loves to plant out the flower beds and he’s always looking for something new.

**Mrs. Smith:** I wish Bill were like that. He does nothing till he feels ashamed in front of the neighbours. Then he gets out the mower and mows the front lawn with terrific energy. But he gets tired in a quarter of an hour, and his hands get sore and blistered. The fact is, he leaves it all to me and, you know what it is to have a house to run and a family to look after. If you add the garden, life really becomes a burden.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Why doesn’t Mr. Smith find it relaxing?

**Mrs. Smith:** I wish I knew. He’s healthy, fairly strong, loves beautiful things and is ever so keen on nature generally, but he says gardening’s a

specialist's job, that it so happens he's specialized in something else.

**Mrs. Johnson:** I've always thought there's nothing more pleasant to do around the house than to look after the garden, at least there your work and your tastes show. You cook for hours and the meals are swallowed in a few minutes; you clean the house and dust has settled again before you've finished. But plant a seed or a bulb or a shoot and every day you feel the working of nature and the mystery of growing things that become more yours the more you tend them. And it makes you interested in what other people are doing, gives you more to talk about than "How are you?" or the weather. You get to know so much about soils, keeping the goodness in the earth by adding fertilizers. You find out about pruning and where you put various flowers to grow best or to give the best effect.

**Mrs. Smith:** I'm just like you, Mrs. Johnson. I love to work in the garden, but it doesn't help at all to think that your husband is indoors enjoying a concert while you break your back digging up weeds. Now there's a thankless task for you! Wasting your time and energy while he could have done it so well and easily. But there's nothing doing; he won't hear of it when it's a matter of the garden. Mind you, he's most helpful round the house. It's only where the garden is concerned that we don't see eye to eye. He just has no interest in what fascinates you and me and so many others.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Perhaps it's a special allergy. Can't you take him to a psychiatrist for this?

**Mrs. Smith:** What? Do you think it can be a phobia, or some mental trouble that keeps him away from the garden?

**Mrs. Johnson:** Maybe.

**Mrs. Smith:** I can't believe that. I prefer to think of it as the freedom to choose one's activities and for my husband gardening just comes bottom of the list.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Perhaps you're right, Mrs. Smith, but it would have been so nice for you if your husband could be sharing your interest in flowers and gardens. Try again, there may be some way—going to flower shows, leaving gardening magazines about, visiting parks at the peak of the season?

**Mrs. Smith:** Something like that might do the trick, but perhaps I prefer to toil harder in the garden and leave him alone. Goodbye.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Goodbye Mrs. Smith—and all the best.

## 5 The fight for equality

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Before World War I, many efforts to correct bad conditions and injustices in the United States had succeeded. Laws had been passed to limit the power of big business. New laws protected children from being used as cheap labor. Women had worked hard for these laws. There were other reforms in law and in government.

The Declaration of Independence has stated that all men were created equal. But half the nation's citizens were women. They were still not treated equally. Until 1920, most women did not have the right to vote. In the 19th and 20th centuries, women in the States fought for reforms. They demanded the equal rights that had long been denied.

During the 1800s and early 1900s, the role of women was the subject of much heated discussion.

People had been taught to believe that a

woman's place was in the home. Girls were often told that they were too weak in mind and body to go to college.

But many women proved that these beliefs were wrong. A determined few did go to college.

Some women went on to become doctors, lawyers, scientists, and business managers. Women continued to do many things that some people believed only men could do. Maria Mitchell discovered Mitchell's Comet in 1847. She was later professor of astronomy at Vassar College. In 1849, Mary Baker Eddy founded the Church of Christ, Scientist. She also started her own newspaper, *The Christian Science Monitor*. In 1926, Gertrude Ederle swam the English Channel. She broke all the earlier records set by men. And, in 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly a plane across the Atlantic alone. She was also the first person to fly alone from Honolulu to California.

There was a shortage of workers during World War I. For the first time, many women had the chance to work outside the home. During wartime, women were hired for jobs that were usually done by men. They worked in factories making tools, weapons, and explosives. They made airplane and automobile parts. They refined petroleum and metals. They ran farms. They worked on the railroads.

They did everything that was necessary to support the war effort at home.

More women than ever before were taking those jobs that were open to them. Many became secretaries and clerks. Some held jobs as bank tellers, nurses, and teachers. But after the war, women lost the better-paying factory jobs. Higher-level jobs in all areas were also reserved for men. Women were not even considered for such jobs. Many people believed that men

should earn money and women should raise families.

Women sometimes disagreed with each other about whether or not women should hold jobs. But most women did agree that they should have the right to vote. For a long time, women had been fighting for suffrage. Suffrage means the right to vote. People who fight for the right to vote are called suffragists.

The suffrage movement had started in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. There, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott held the first Women's Rights Convention. At Seneca Falls, women declared that all men and women are created equal. Later, in 1872, Susan B. Anthony, the suffragist leader, was arrested for voting in the presidential election. Susan B. Anthony led the struggle for the vote until she died in 1906.

By the early 1900s, the women's suffrage movement had grown larger. Women began to win limited voting rights in some states. But at that time, almost all men and even many women were opposed to women's suffrage. Over the years, the suffragists won much more support. The efforts of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Julia Ward Howe, and Carrie Chapman Catt were succeeding.

Millions of women who worked in the United States wanted better jobs. They wanted higher wages and better working conditions. These women believed that the vote would give them the power to bring about these changes. They also realized that, with the right to vote, they could help correct some other injustices. For example, during the 1800s, married women were not allowed to own property in most states. Even those who worked did not really own their earnings. Under the law, everything a woman had belonged to her husband. One

of the causes of the American Revolution was the colonists' complaint about taxation without representation. Yet, 125 years later, working women had to pay taxes without being represented in the nation's law-making bodies.

Some women, such as Alice Paul, told people about their cause by leading marches and demonstrations. Often the women who took part in these events were laughed at and insulted. Some were beaten and jailed. But they did not stop fighting for their rights. Other women worked through the political system. Carrie Chapman Catt organized women to work in local political districts. She had two million women working in a national campaign. All this effort finally paid off. Also, many people realized that women had helped win the war. So in 1920, the Constitution was changed. The Nineteenth Amendment gave women across the nation the full right to vote in elections.

Winning the right to vote brought women closer to the American ideal of equality for all. But it did not solve all their problems. It did not change the attitudes of many people. Many still believed that women and men were not equal. Women could vote. But few women were elected to office. Many opportunities, such as important jobs, were still denied to women.

## 6 Dad had lost all purpose in life

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We had to watch him getting frailer and frailer, while Mum seemed even more energetic than before. She still had a job to do—shopping, cooking and running the flat. She was necessary. Dad felt superfluous. He died six years after they moved into the flat for old people. I think he died in self-defense.

After Dad died, all of us rallied round Mum.

We thought that to have her children calling on her would be some sort of compensation. It was at first. I'd visit her twice a day and listen while she talked about her life with Dad. Not for Mum, a veil of silence over the dead. She would relate their lives and relationship together from the time she first met him. I think it was right what she did. The conspiracy of silence that so many relations adopt about the dead doesn't help. It makes it appear as if those that are gone never lived. It was far better to talk about Dad, to keep him alive in spirit. After all death is inevitable; it's only the way there that is different. The great thing about Mum was that she had no regrets. She didn't keep on about, "If only I'd done this or done that..." All she wanted to do was relive their lives together. I remember once when Pat and I had been listening to her all afternoon, Mum said as we left, "Now that I've talked to you both, I feel ten years younger." And as we went down the stairs I said to Pat, "And we feel ten years older." Yet we could both see the value it had had for her. It's all very well for me to say that Dad died in self-defense, that Mum dominated and overshadowed him. Perhaps this was what he wanted: someone to make all the decisions. Up to the very end he adored Mum and she him. Perhaps towards the end he wanted more quiet, but who are we to say? It's only since he died that Mum felt the need to talk about him; while he was there, her life was complete.

For the next fifteen years, Mum seemed to grow even more energetic. When she was well over eighty, she thought nothing of walking from home to Brighton and back. Often she'd start by waiting for a bus but if one didn't come within a minute, she'd make an expression of disgust and decide to walk. She was always an

impatient woman. The thing that annoyed me and, I think, my brothers and sisters, was that Mum refused to allow us to compensate for Dad. We tried so hard, visiting her, talking and listening to her, taking her flowers, chocolates and drink, but she'd always got her grumbles about how lonely she was. I used to say how fortunate she was to have five of us children and her grandchildren going so regularly to see her.

She'd just grunt. Then I'd compare her lot with so many other old people who lived around her, many of whom hadn't got anybody to care for them. "What have they got to do with me?" she'd reply. What can you say to a woman like that? Only agree with her that contemplating other people's miseries doesn't help you to bear your own. Mum resented that she was incidental in our lives; with Dad she had been the only one.