



TRIBUTE TO RBG



With this tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Babylonia editorial staff would like to welcome you to our newest feature, the teaching tasters! To start our new year with issues on Social Justice and Women's Rights, we find it appropriate to share tried and tested lessons from the English language classroom in Zurich that could well be used in similar ways for different languages. Our Teaching Tasters will be published two – three times a year. Welcome 2021!

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Whilst many Swiss women have left their mark on the world (Christiane Brunner, Elisabeth, Kopp, Iris von Roten, Antonietta Chiovini, Marthe Gosteli, Simonetta Sommaruga, to name only a few), 2020 marked the passing of an American Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG). RBG is a pop culture icon that children in public schools should also be aware of as part of their general world knowledge. Learning about her can lead to discussions about what the equivalent of the Supreme Court in Switzerland is and of famous local heroines. This particular lesson was used in a sixth-grade class in Zurich for an English language lesson that also included some elements in the local language (German), but can easily be adapted to the secondary school and higher levels. There were many aims of the lesson, including to develop some grammar awareness in the writing of questions, to skim and scan text for information, and to increase awareness of RBG and the court system in general in a CLIL approach.

1. Hang up or project pictures of RBG with some questions that can be answered from the pictures (see Figure 1 - there are many more online). In this class, learners are used to doing what is on the board in the first few minutes of class (bell-ringer).

2. Write "I dissent = Ich widerspreche" on the board. Ask: "When have you "Dissented" or not agreed? Why? What does this have to do with the woman you see here?"

3. Text work: Included here are two options for working with the same text (found on the following pages). Both options start with scrambled questions - I use the Altastic Scramblinator (<https://www.altastic.com/scramblinator/>) to scramble sentences, but there are numerous other tools online.

Option A – basic sentence scramble and gap fill: There are two versions of the same text: for stronger learners (*) and for learners who are perhaps put off with so much text (**). Learners work individually, then with someone who received the same text, and then they can

Additional info on Swiss women

- <https://ch2021.ch>
- <https://www.archividonneticino.ch>

read the text aloud to one another. A recording of the text is included.

Option B – This is your basic information gap activity (the same text with two different gaps) and gaps can be made wherever the teacher thinks there needs to be a focus. One learner gets Paper A and the other learner gets Paper B. I make sure the learner with Paper A is the one who reads the first sentence and that the learners know to ping pong. If you use this technique regularly, then learners will know how it works. For some learners, I have them first think about what word could be missing and what question could be asked to the partner to find the missing word. I always have learners sit back-to-back when they do this activity, so they read the text aloud because I want them to speak, to ask their partner to repeat, to ask how to spell words, etc. Once they have done this back-to-back, then they can check their answers by looking at each other's

paper. If there's time, watch a short video (trailer of "RBG" by Magnolia Pictures) and pause to discuss statements such as "Women are too emotional...", etc. either in the target or local language.

4. Return to the pictures and questions on the board. Have the learners add a few points to their original answers.

This lesson also included some spontaneous improv acting out of the Supreme Court (Bundesgericht) where the teacher stole a child's eraser and worked his way up the courts - the stealing was done in English, the specific terminology and court names was in German. I don't have any pictures of this, but I wish I'd been a fly on the wall!

We wish you, dear reader, fun with these materials!

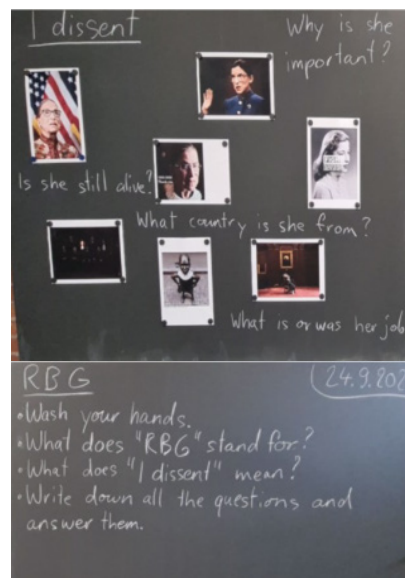


Figure 1: Bell-ringer on the board

Original text (Laura Loder Buechel) Ruth Bader Ginsburg RBG

Who was the second woman on the Supreme Court of the United States?
Who spent her life fighting for men and women to have equal rights?
Women can now have credit cards - Who can we thank?
Who showed the world that women can be lawyers?
Who showed the world that women and men should have equal pay?
What is the answer to all these questions? **Ruth Bader Ginsburg!**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in 1933 and she died on September 18, 2020. She was a very important Jewish American woman. She changed the world forever.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg studied law (Recht). In school, she was first in her class – she had the best grades! Almost no women studied law at the time. One teacher even asked her “Why are you doing this? You are taking the job away from a man.”

When she finished her studies, she had a hard time getting a job as a lawyer. No man wanted to hire a woman!

But Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a fighter – she never stopped fighting. She worked hard and she became the second woman to be a judge in the Supreme Court (Bundesgericht). She wanted men to be able to stay home and take care of their families and for women to be able to go to work and earn fair pay. She made this, and much more, possible!

Take it further!

- Do women and men have equal pay in Switzerland?
- What do you know about the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (Bundesgericht)? What questions can you ask about it?

****Ruth Bader Ginsburg RBG**

Unscramble the questions.

1. Who was _____?
on the Supreme Court / ~~Who was~~ / the second woman / of the United States?
2. _____?
her life / Who spent / fighting for / to have equal rights? / men and women
3. _____?
credit cards now. / Women / can have / we thank? / Who can
4. _____?
lawyers? / the world / that women / Who showed / can be
5. _____?
that men and women / should have / the world / Who showed / equal pay?
6. _____?
What is / the answer to / all these questions?

...Ruth Bader Ginsburg!

Write the verbs in the correct form.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in 1933 and she _____ (to die) on September 18, 2020. She _____ (to be) a very important Jewish American woman. She _____ (to change) the world forever.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg _____ (to study) law (*Recht*). In school, she _____ (to be) first in her class – she _____ (to have) the best grades! Almost no women _____ (to study) law at the time. One teacher even _____ (to ask) her “Why are you _____ (to do) this? You are _____ (to take) the job away from a man.”

When she _____ (to finish) her studies, she _____ (to have) a hard time getting a job as a lawyer. No man _____ (to want) to hire a woman!

But Ruth Bader Ginsburg _____ (to be) a fighter – she never _____ (to stop) fighting. She _____ (to work) hard and she _____ (to become) the second woman to be a judge in the Supreme Court (*Bundesgericht*). She _____ (to want) men to be able to stay home and take care of their families and for women to be able to go to work and earn fair pay. She _____ (to make) this, and much more, possible!

Take it further!

- Do women and men have equal pay in Switzerland?
- What do you know about the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (*Bundesgericht*)? What questions can you ask about it?

*Ruth Bader Ginsburg RBG

Unscramble the questions.

1. Who was _____?
Supreme Court / woman / of / ~~Who was~~ / on / the second / the / United States / the
2. _____?
rights / to / life / her / spent / men / and / Who / fighting / have / equal / women / for
3. _____?
credit / Women / cards / can / have / now -thank / we / can / Who
4. _____?
lawyers / be / world / women / showed / that / Who / can / the
5. _____?
showed / that / and / men / equal / the / should / women / world / Who / have / pay
6. _____?
these / is / answer / What / the / to / all / questions

...Ruth Bader Ginsburg!

Write the verbs in the correct form.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in 1933 and she _____ (to die) on September 18, 2020. She _____ (to be) a very important Jewish American woman. She _____ (to change) the world forever.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg _____ (to study) law (*Recht*). In school, she _____ (to be) first in her class – she _____ (to have) the best grades! Almost no women _____ (to study) law at the time. One teacher even _____ (to ask) her “Why are you _____ (to do) this? You are _____ (to take) the job away from a man.”

When she _____ (to finish) her studies, she _____ (to have) a hard time getting a job as a lawyer. No man _____ (to want) to hire a woman!

But Ruth Bader Ginsburg _____ (to be) a fighter – she never _____ (to stop) fighting. She _____ (to work) hard and she _____ (to become) the second woman to be a judge in the Supreme Court (*Bundesgericht*). She _____ (to want) men to be able to stay home and take care of their families and for women to be able to go to work and earn fair pay. She _____ (to make) this, and much more, possible!

Take it further!

- Do women and men have equal pay in Switzerland?
- What do you know about the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (*Bundesgericht*)? What questions can you ask about it?

A: Ruth Bader Ginsburg RBG

Unscramble the questions.

1. Who was _____?
on the Supreme Court / ~~Who was~~ / the second woman / of the United States?

2. _____?
her life / Who spent / fighting for / to have equal rights? / men and women

3. _____?
credit cards now. / Women / can have / we thank? / Who can

4. _____?
lawyers? / the world / that women / Who showed / can be

5. _____?
that men and women / should have / the world / Who showed / equal pay?

6. _____?
What is / the answer to / all these questions?

...Ruth Bader Ginsburg!

A: You start with the first sentence!

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in 1933. She died _____ September 18, 2020. She was a very important Jewish American woman. She _____ the world forever.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg studied law (Recht). In school, she was _____ in her class – she had the best grades! Almost no women studied law at the time. One teacher even asked her “_____ are you doing this? You are taking the job away from a man.”

When she finished her studies, she had a hard time getting a job as a _____. No man wanted to hire a woman!

But Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a fighter – she _____ stopped fighting. She worked hard and she became the second woman to be a judge in the Supreme Court (Bundesgericht). She wanted men to be _____ to stay home and take care of their families and for women to be able to go to work and earn fair pay. She made this, and much more, possible!

Take it further!

- Do women and men have equal pay in Switzerland?
- What do you know about the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (Bundesgericht)? What questions can you ask about it?

B: Ruth Bader Ginsburg RBG

Unscramble the questions.

1. Who was _____?
on the Supreme Court / Who was / the second woman / of the United States?

2. _____?
her life / Who spent / fighting for / to have equal rights? / men and women

3. _____?
credit cards now. / Women / can have / we thank? / Who can

4. _____?
lawyers? / the world / that women / Who showed / can be

5. _____?
that men and women / should have / the world / Who showed / equal pay?

6. _____?
What is / the answer to / all these questions?.

...Ruth Bader Ginsburg!

B: You start reading the second sentence!

Ruth Bader Ginsburg _____ born in 1933. She died on September 18, 2020. She was a very _____ Jewish American woman. She changed the world forever.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg studied _____ (Recht). In school, she was first in her class – she had the best grades! Almost no _____ studied law at the time. One teacher even asked her “Why are you doing this? You are _____ the job away from a man.”

When she finished her studies, she had a hard time getting a job as a lawyer. No man wanted to _____ a woman!

But Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a fighter – she never stopped fighting. She worked hard and she _____ the second woman to be a judge in the Supreme Court (Bundesgericht). She wanted men to be able to stay home and take care of their families and for women to be able to go to work and earn fair pay. She made this, and much more, _____!

Take it further!

- Do women and men have equal pay in Switzerland?
- What do you know about the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (Bundesgericht)? What questions can you ask about it?