

To break the glass ceiling

Idiom of the month

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1. **What problems can women encounter in the workplace? Add 5 more to the list.**

- a. Lower salaries than men.
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

2a. **Read**

Remember that you can do anything, Emily.

I know, mum but the bosses at my company are all men and they don't listen to my ideas.

Your ideas are brilliant. You have to insist and break the glass ceiling.

I will, mum. I want to be the boss one day and hire more women.

2b. **Complete with the idiom of the month.**

Women have to _____ to create more opportunities for themselves and other women.

*The glass ceiling is an invisible barrier that stops women from achieving everything they want to achieve in their careers. To realise their full potential, women have to **break the glass ceiling** and overcome all the obstacles in their way.*



3. Use the internet to find out how these female role models broke the glass ceiling and complete the sentences.

Giorgia Meloni

Leah Williamson

Mae Jemison

Sue Batten

Christine Lagarde

- a. Giorgia Meloni was elected as Italy's first female _____ in 2022.
- b. Leah Williamson was _____ of the England Women's football team in 2022 when they won the European Championship for the first time.
- c. Mae Jemison was the first _____ to go into space in 1992.
- d. Sue Batten was the first female _____ to join the London Fire Brigade in 1982.
- e. Christine Lagarde was the International Monetary Fund's first female _____ in 2011.



4. Choose one of the women from exercise 3. Prepare a presentation on her life and career. Share your presentation with the rest of the class.

5. Class discussion.

Discuss these questions:

Which woman do you think overcame the most obstacles?

Who has made the biggest difference to the next generation of young women?

Why is it important for women to keep on breaking glass ceilings?

Teacher's Notes

Sample answer

b. Less promotions to executive roles than men.

c. Not enough female role models.

d. Harassment.

e. Negative attitudes to pregnancy and childcare.

f. Fewer career opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).

2b. Women have to break the glass ceiling to create more opportunities for themselves and other women.

3. a. Giorgia Meloni was elected as Italy's first female prime minister in 2022.

b. Leah Williamson was captain of the England Women's football team in 2022 when they won the European Championship for the first time.

c. Mae Jemison was the first Black woman to go into space in 1992.

d. Sue Batten was the first female firefighter to join the London Fire Brigade in 1982.

e. Christine Lagarde was the International Monetary Fund's first female Managing Director in 2011.

4. Answers will vary.

5. Answers will vary.

Interesting fact to share with your students: Up to now, 2023, no woman has ever walked on the moon.

