

# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 随身英语

### Reading: International Women's Day 国际妇女节

How far have British women come in their journey for equal rights? A new survey gives a **mixed picture**.

The **poll** was done to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day, which is today. It was commissioned by a group of UK charities and over 1,000 adults were interviewed by Ipsos MORI.

The survey found that although **chauvinism** is still an issue for many young women, most females do not feel a lack of job **opportunities** is a major problem.

Sixty per cent of women under thirty said they had experienced **derogatory** remarks or behaviour. But despite this, only one in five women describe themselves as **feminists**.

In another respects, the survey indicated that some progress had been made since British women first campaigned against **discrimination** in the workplace.

When asked what they thought the biggest challenges facing British women were, 15 per cent of women respondents mentioned breaking into senior jobs in business, 23 per cent cited the **pay gap** between men and women, but only six per cent of women cited **sexism** at work. Sixty-two per cent said that **balancing their home and work lives** was one of the biggest challenges.

Cherie Blair, who runs her own charity helping women get into business, feels that women are still missing out on top jobs. She told bbcukchina:

"There still aren't enough women at my level for example. So I'm a senior trial lawyer that we call Queen's Council, and still only 10 per cent of QCs are women... So we still have a long way to go but we are definitely moving in the right direction."

请查阅后面的词汇表对照重点词语的中文解释。

## Quiz 测验

1. Why is the survey being released today?
2. True or false: Most British women are happy to call themselves feminists.
3. True or false: The survey shows that most women feel that sexism at work is holding them back.
4. Do many working women find it difficult to manage their time?
5. Look at the article. Find another word that means the same as chauvinism.

## Exercise 练习

下面是选词填空练习。请从下表中选词填写在每句话的空格处。所有单词都是前面文章中出现过的。看看你能不能正确使用。

<b>equal opportunities</b>	<b>sexism</b>	<b>feminist</b>	<b>pay gap</b>
<b>glass ceiling</b>	<b>discriminate</b>	<b>chauvinist</b>	

1. "In my old company, men didn't have to wear a uniform but female employees had to wear a blue skirt and a red scarf. You don't see \_\_\_\_\_ like that so much nowadays."
2. The lack of access for women to get the top jobs in a company is sometimes called the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "I believe women and men are equally capable, but I'm not sure I would call myself a \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "I can't stand that man! He's a \_\_\_\_\_ pig."
5. Even after all this time, there is still a \_\_\_\_\_ between men and women.
6. "This company offers \_\_\_\_\_ to all its employees. We do not \_\_\_\_\_ on the basis of gender, religion, race, age or disability."

## **Answers and Glossary** 答案与词汇

### **Quiz** 小测验

1. Why is the survey being released today? It is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day.
2. True or false: Most British women are happy to call themselves feminists.  
False
3. True or false: The survey shows that most women feel that sexism at work is holding them back. False
4. Do many working women find it difficult to manage their time? Yes
5. Look at the article. Find another word that means the same as chauvinism.  
Sexism

### **Exercise** 练习

1. "In my old company, men didn't have to wear a uniform but female employees had to wear a blue skirt and a red scarf. You don't see sexism like that so much nowadays."
2. The lack of access for women to get the top jobs in a company is sometimes called the glass ceiling.
3. "I believe women and men are equally capable, but I'm not sure I would call myself a feminist."
4. "I can't stand that man! He's a chauvinist pig."
5. Even after all this time, there is still a pay gap between men and women.
6. "This company offers equal opportunities to all its employees. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, religion, race, age or disability."

### **Glossary** 词汇表

<b>a mixed picture</b> 反应不一	<b>a poll</b> 民意调查
<b>(male) chauvinism</b> 大男子主义	<b>opportunities</b> 机会
<b>derogatory</b> 贬义的	<b>feminist</b> 女权主义者
<b>discrimination</b> 歧视	<b>sexism</b> 性别歧视
<b>pay gap</b> 薪水差距	<b>balancing one's home and work lives</b> 平衡（兼顾）家务与工作