




## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Pair Discussion

1. Today's lesson is about a woman who was born in 1880. How was 1880 different from today? With a partner discuss the topics in the table below and write down your ideas. Be ready to share some answers with the class.

| Topics   | 1880 | Now |
|--|------|-----|
| Transportation  |      |     |
| Clothes  |      |     |
| Medicine        |      |     |
| Work   |      |     |
| School   |      |     |
| Family   |      |     |
| Marriage      |      |     |

2. Now discuss this question with your partner:

*Do you think life was easier or more difficult in 1880?  
Why?*

### B: Vocabulary

Match these words from today's article with the pictures below.

hate    bury    world    husband    marry



Improve your English with FREE online English lessons at <http://www.selfaccess.com>



## Reading Activities

### A: Understanding The Headline

The headline often gives you the main idea of an article. Read today's headline and then answer the questions.

# 123-Year-Old Woman Buried Next to Hated Husband

1. How old was the woman who died?
2. Who was she buried next to?
3. Did she love her husband?

### B: Scanning

Now read **Part One** of today's article quickly and look for the answers to the questions below. Don't use your dictionary.

1. What is the woman's name?
2. Which country did she live in?
3. When was she born?
4. How old was she when she got married?
5. Why did she hate her husband?

#### Part One

## 123-Year-Old Woman Buried Next to Hated Husband

TIRANA Mon November 10 (Reuters) - The oldest woman in Albania -- and perhaps in the world -- has died at the age of 123. She was buried next to her husband whom she hated because she was **forced** to marry him when she was 14 years old.

Hava Rexha was born on August 22, 1880 and lived her whole life in the central Albanian village of Shushice. (Continued/...)

ARTICLE © REUTERS LIMITED. LESSON © WWW.ENGLISH-TO-GO.COM

### C: Comprehension

**Word: forced** - to make someone do something they do not want to do

Read **Part Two** of today's article and answer the following questions.

1. How old was Rexha's husband when they got married?
2. Was this her husband's first marriage?
3. How many children did Rexha have?
4. How many of her children died in childhood?
5. Do you think she had an easy or difficult life? Why?

#### Part Two

.../Continued) Reuters **interviewed** Rexha a month before her 122nd birthday. She still **resented** her forced marriage when she was 14 years old to a man who was about 60 years old and had been married twice before.

"I did not want a wedding. I didn't love my husband. He

was an old man," she said.

Rexha had six children but four died in childhood.

She spent her life doing difficult farming jobs, housework, raising children and never taking a break. .

ARTICLE © REUTERS LIMITED. LESSON © WWW.ENGLISH-TO-GO.COM

**Words: interview** - asking questions for a newspaper in a meeting, **resented** - to feel angry about something because you think it is unfair

### D: Guessing Unfamiliar Words

Choose the best meanings for the words in **bold**.

The oldest woman in Albania -- and **perhaps** in the world -- has died at the age of 123.

1. **perhaps** in this sentence means:
  - a. They are sure she is the oldest in the world.
  - b. They are not sure she is the oldest in the world.

...and **lived her whole life** in the **central** Albanian village of Shushice.

2. **lived her whole life** in this sentence means:
  - a. She lived in a different village for many years.
  - b. She only lived in Shushice and never lived anywhere else.

3. **central** in this sentence means:

- a. The center of Albania.
- b. The center of Shushice.

...difficult farming jobs, housework, raising children and **never taking a break**.

4. **never taking a break** in this sentence means:

- a. She had many holidays.
- b. She didn't have any holidays.

## E: Language

1. Read the following summary about today's article and fill the gaps with the correct numbers.

The oldest woman in Albania, Hava Rexha, has died. She was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
Born on August \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in Shushice, Rexha was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when she was forced to marry a \_\_\_\_\_-year-old man she did not love.  
She and her husband had \_\_\_\_\_ children but \_\_\_\_\_ of them died when they were young.  
Rexha was buried next to her husband who had died many years before her.

2. Now read your summary to another student. Your partner should not read the text but only listen and try to understand you. When you have finished reading, your partner will read and you listen.

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Group Discussion

In today's article we read that Hava Rexha was forced to marry a much older man when she was 14 years old. Discuss the following questions in groups.

1. When do people usually get married in your country?
2. What is the **legal** age for getting married in your country? (*legal* - allowed by the law)
3. How old were your mother and father when they got married?
4. How old were your grandparents when they got married?
5. What are some reasons for forcing a girl to get married?

### B: Pair Dictation

Your teacher will place you in pairs, **Student A** and **Student B**, and give each of you a list of three sentences from today's article. **Student A** will read the three sentences to **Student B**. **Student B** will listen and write down the sentences.

**Student B** should not look at **Student A**'s sentences or look at today's article!

When **Student B** has finished, they should swap roles. When both of you have finished, compare your written sentences with the sentences on the worksheets.

### C: Word Find

Find the following words from today's lesson in the word puzzle.

**bury, world, die,**  
**husband, marry,**  
**old, force, woman**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | F | B | U | R | Y | D |
| W | I | O | G | W | N | M |
| O | J | E | R | A | O | A |
| R | N | N | B | C | U | R |
| L | X | S | O | E | E | R |
| D | U | L | K | H | T | Y |
| H | D | N | A | M | O | W |

### D: Language Extension

Here are some sentences about **Pre-Reading Activity A**. Use the verbs in brackets in the correct form (past simple) to fill the gaps in the sentences. Be careful with question 7!

#### England

1. In 1880 many people \_\_\_\_\_ to work. (*walk*) Now we drive cars or take buses or trains.
2. In 1880 many workers \_\_\_\_\_ clogs or shoes made of wood. (*wear*) Now we wear shoes made of leather or canvas.
3. In 1880 most doctors \_\_\_\_\_ men. (*be*) Now there are many women doctors.
4. In 1880 many people \_\_\_\_\_ very long hours each day. (*work*) Now most people work around 8 hours.
5. In 1880 many children \_\_\_\_\_ on slates with chalk or a slate pencil. (*write*) Now they use pens or computers.
6. In 1880 many people \_\_\_\_\_ large families. (*have*) Now many people only have one or two children.
7. In 1880 many women \_\_\_\_\_ at home and \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ to work. (*stay, go*) Now many women are mothers and they also go to work.

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Pair Discussion - Notes

This is a lead-in activity. If you have different cultures represented in your class, try to pair the students so they are working with somebody from a similar background. This will make the sharing part of the activity more interesting.

You may need to check that students understand the meanings of all the topics before they begin. The word 'marriage' can refer to a wedding or to the time when two people are together as wife and husband. Both of these aspects could be discussed by students.

### B: Vocabulary - Answers

1. world, 2. bury, 3. husband, marry, 4. hate.

## Reading Activities

### A: Understanding The Headline - Answers

- 123 years old.
- Her husband.
- No, she hated him.

### B: Scanning - Answers

1. Hava Rexha, 2. Albania, 3. August 22, 1880, 4. 14, 5. Because she was forced to marry him.

### C: Comprehension - Answers

- 60 years old.
- No, it was his third.
- Six.
- Four.
- She had a difficult life. Some examples: She was forced to marry an older man when she was 14 years old. She had six children but four died in childhood. She spent her life doing difficult farming jobs, housework and raising children.

### D: Guessing Unfamiliar Words - Notes

If you have a stronger class, you may want to explain the meaning of some words such as perhaps and maybe when we want to express uncertainty.

### D: Guessing Unfamiliar Words - Answers

1. b, 2. b, 3. a, 4. b.

### E: Language - Notes

The purpose of this activity is not only to check the students' understanding of the article but to also practice saying numbers. Therefore, you may wish to review dates, ages, and ordinal numbers with your students before they read their summaries to each other. A good way to do this is to ask students their birth dates, ages, and any questions that elicit an ordinal number response. (E.g. How many brothers and sisters do you have?)

### B: Pair Dictation - Worksheet To Be Given To Student A

### E: Language - Answers

1. The oldest woman in Albania, Hava Rexha, has died. She was 123 years old. Born on August 22, 1880 in Shushice, Rexha was 14 years old when she was forced to marry a 60-year-old man she did not love. She and her husband had 6 children but 4 of them died when they were young. Rexha was buried next to her husband who had died many years before her.

2. 123: one hundred twenty-three; one hundred and twenty-three.  
August 22, 1880: August twenty-second, eighteen eighty; August the twenty-second, eighteen eighty; the twenty-second of August, eighteen eighty.  
14: four TEEN.  
60: SIX ty  
6: SIX  
4: FOUR

## Post-Reading Activities

### B: Pair Dictation - Notes (See Handouts Below)

Tell the Group A students they are allowed to look at the worksheets and ask you any questions about pronunciation before they begin. They dictate their sentences to their partners. Group B students listen and write what they hear. Then they swap roles. You may need to remind students that they will need to say 'capital letter', 'hyphen', etc. to their partners. The student who is listening and writing can ask for clarification or for something to be repeated. Encourage them to interrupt and ask questions to the other student. This is a good way for students to practice useful classroom language. (E.g. Can you speak more slowly, please; How do you spell Albania? etc.). Once they have finished, ask the students to sit with their partners and compare their dictation with the article, correcting any mistakes.

### C: Word Find - Answers



### D: Language Extension - Answers

1. walked, 2. wore, 3. were, 4. worked, 5. wrote, 6. had, 7. stayed, didn't go.

## Student A

1. The oldest woman in Albania, Hava Rexha, has died at the age of 123.
2. She was buried next to her husband.
3. She was forced to marry him when she was 14 years old.

### B: Pair Dictation - Worksheet To Be Given To Student B

## Student B

1. Rexha was born on August 22, 1880.
2. She had six children but four children died in childhood.
3. Rexha spent her life doing farmwork, housework and raising children.