

RUTH BADER GINSBURG: An Inspiration to Generations



SPREAD THE WORD

A Look at the words below. How many do you know? Look up the ones you don't know in the dictionary.

court • law • Supreme Court • just • justice • bench • judge • reform
judicial • achieve human rights • discrimination • gender
glass ceiling • minorities • me too • equality • rule (v)

B Fill in the blanks using words/expressions from the word bank above.

1. He asked the ...to take the accused's special circumstances into consideration.
2. It's not an easy feat for women to break the
3. Women have suffered from ... discrimination throughout history.
4. The ... is the highest court of appeal in Israel.
5. I believe the court's decision was



C Read the following short biography of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and answer the questions that follow.**I**

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who long stood for women's rights and became the court's second female justice and first Jewish female justice, died on September 18, 2020 at the age of 87, after years of battling with cancer.

II

5 Ginsburg was born on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York. She was the second daughter of Nathan and Celia Bader and grew up in a low-income working-class neighborhood. Ginsburg was greatly influenced by her mother's selfless decision as a young woman to work instead of attending college herself to help pay for her brother's education. Sadly, her mother who taught her the importance of getting an education and being independent, died the day before her daughter's high school graduation. In an interview, Ginsburg said her mother
10 was one of the smartest people she had ever known. "I pray that I may be all that she would have been, had she lived in an age when women could aspire and achieve, and daughters are cherished as much as sons."

III

15 True to her upbringing, Ginsburg excelled in her studies and graduated first in her class at Columbia Law School in 1959. After graduating, she attended Harvard Law School where she was one of only 9 women in a class of 500 students. She was known for her defense of women's rights and the rights of minorities throughout her many years as a civil rights lawyer before becoming a Supreme Court justice in 1993. When it came to equal rights, Ginsburg said: "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception" and "No doors should be closed to people willing to spend the
20 hours of effort needed to make dreams come true".

IV

As a judge, Ginsburg preferred to adopt an approach of caution, moderation and restraint, advocating gender equality and the rights of workers. One of Ginsburg's most significant achievements was the 1996 ruling that ordered the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) to accept women or lose federal funding.

V

25 In her answer to a question in an interview about when there will be enough women on the Supreme Court, she said :*" When there are nine." This short answer sums up her legacy to future generations.

***There are nine Supreme Court justices in the USA**





THINK BIG

- Write THREE facts about Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life.
- Write TWO facts that show she broke the 'glass ceiling'.
- Write ONE thing you found impressive in Ginsburg's biography.



DID YOU KNOW

- A.** The noun 'justice' can mean **قاضٍ / قاضية** שופט בארה"ב or **עֲדָן**.
The word 'just' also has two meanings. It can mean **עادل, הוגן, צודק** or **רק فقط**.
Translate the words 'just' or 'justice' in the following sentences into your home language.
- The judge's verdict was perfectly just.
 - The protesters demanded justice for all.
 - She was chosen to serve as a Supreme Court justice.
 - I'll just finish this assignment and join you.
- B.** The noun 'court' can mean **חצר המלך, בלאט המלך** or **מגרש ספורט, מלعب رياضة, חצר, ساحة, בית משפט محكمة**.
The verb 'to court' means **יתוודד, יגאל, יראוד לחזר**.
Translate the word 'court' in the following sentences into your home language.
- The ball is in your court, it is up to you to do something.
 - The meeting was held in the inner court of the building.
 - The witness was asked to tell the court what he had seen.
 - I have often wondered what life in the royal court is really like.
 - It's interesting to see how men used to court women years ago.
- C.** The noun 'bench' can mean **השופט עצמו, קאזי נפס** or **ספסל כרסי القاضي, דוכן השופט, منصة القضاة, משרת שופט, منصب القاضي**.
The verb 'to bench' means **לאסור על השחקן להשתתף במשחק, ספורט מנע اللاعب מן المشاركة في لعبة رياضية**.
Translate the word 'bench'/'benches' in the following sentences into your home language.
- The lawyer asked the judge if he could approach the bench.
 - Due to unsuitable behavior the coach threatened to bench him.
 - The man sitting on the bench was feeding the pigeons.
 - This is her first trial since she has been appointed to the bench.
 - The volunteers handed out blankets to homeless people who slept on benches in the park.
- D.** Watch the following clip and answer the questions that follow:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IXhw0L_Ko-Q
- Name TWO facts mentioned in the clip that didn't appear in the article above.
 - What, in your opinion, made her such an admirable person and judge?
- E.** Read the article 'A Woman Who Made a Difference' in unit 3 in the book, and find two similarities and two differences between Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Marie Curie.
- F.** While Ruth Bader Ginsburg was still on the bench, she was honored in different ways. One example is T-shirts with quotes, slogans and pictures that were popular and worn by many Americans. One such slogan, for example, was 'You can't spell Truth without Ruth'.
Design a T-shirt with another slogan in honor of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

