

# Margaret Thatcher dies, aged 87

10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013



Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has died aged 87. She had a stroke at The Ritz Hotel in London after being in poor health for many years. Mrs Thatcher became famous after becoming the U.K.'s first ever female leader. She was in power from 1979 to 1990 – the longest time in office for a Prime Minister

in over 150 years. Her tough style earned her the nickname the "Iron Lady". Her 11 years of leadership greatly changed British society. Many praised her for transforming Britain into a more free-market economy. Others hated her for selling government-owned industries and breaking up communities. She also took the decision to go to war with Argentina in 1982 to recover the Falkland Islands.

Britain's best-selling newspapers also disagree about Margaret Thatcher. The right wing "Daily Mail" said she was: "The Woman Who Saved Britain." However, the left wing "Daily Mirror" ran the headline: "The Woman Who Divided A Nation." Tony Blair (Prime Minister from 1997-2007) paid tribute to Mrs Thatcher, saying: "Very few leaders get to change not only the political landscape of their country but of the world. Margaret was such a leader. Her global impact was vast." Current British leader David Cameron said: "Margaret Thatcher loved this country and served it with all she had. For that, she has her well-earned place in history." He added the British people would respect and thank her forever.

Sources: Reuters / BBC

## Writing

*Women are better national leaders than men.*  
Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*former / stroke / poor health / female leader / leadership / society / go to war / newspapers / disagree / headline / tribute / global impact / place in history / respect*

## True / False

- Margaret Thatcher died from a stroke in her home. T / F
- She had very little money when she died. T / F
- Margaret Thatcher was Britain's shortest-serving leader. T / F
- Her nickname was the "Iron Lady". T / F
- A left wing newspaper said she saved Britain. T / F
- An ex-British Prime Minister said she changed the world. T / F
- The present British Prime Minister said she loved Britain. T / F
- David Cameron said British people would thank Thatcher forever. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. former         | a. approach  |
| 2. in poor health | b. huge      |
| 3. over           | c. argue     |
| 4. style          | d. admired   |
| 5. praised        | e. influence |
| 6. disagree       | f. ill       |
| 7. ran            | g. always    |
| 8. impact         | h. more than |
| 9. vast           | i. printed   |
| 10. forever       | j. ex-       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Margaret Thatcher?
- Do you think Margaret Thatcher was a good or bad leader?
- What would you like to know about Margaret Thatcher?
- Why was Margaret Thatcher called the "Iron Lady"?
- What images do you have of her from TV, the Internet, etc.?
- Why are there not more female leaders?
- What did Margaret Thatcher change for women?
- Why do so many people love her and so many hate her?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. being in poor                      | a. in history               |
| 2. Her tough style earned her the     | b. economy                  |
| 3. Her 11 years of leadership greatly | c. tribute to               |
| 4. a more free-market                 | d. thank her forever        |
| 5. took the decision to go            | e. changed British society  |
| 6. paid                               | f. of their country         |
| 7. the political landscape            | g. health for many years    |
| 8. Her global                         | h. to war                   |
| 9. she has her well-earned place      | i. nickname the "Iron Lady" |
| 10. people would respect and          | j. impact was vast          |

## Discussion – Student B

- How important was Margaret Thatcher in the world?
- What do people in your country think of Margaret Thatcher?
- What three adjectives best describe Margaret Thatcher (and why)?
- Which female leaders are similar to Margaret Thatcher?
- Do you think there should be more female leaders?
- How are male and female leaders different?
- What three questions would you ask a Margaret Thatcher expert?
- What do you think his/her answers might be?

## Spelling

- She had a otkres
- the U.K.'s first ever emelaf leader
- the longest time in fiefoc
- Many saipder her
- breaking up ctmiiomunse
- took the icoidesn to go to war
- newspapers also sidrgeae
- the dheiaenl
- paid biurtet to Mrs Thatcher
- Her global impact was tavs
- her well-rneeda place in history
- tpersec and thank her

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. f	3. h	4. a	5. d
6. c	7. i	8. e	9. b	10. g

## Leader Role Play

What would you do about these things in your country? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What's wrong now?	How to make things better?
The economy		
The environment		
The Internet		
Schools		
Crime		
Jobs		

## Speaking – Margaret Thatcher

What is the best way to remember Margaret Thatcher? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top.

- a charity
- a Thatcher Day holiday
- a statue in London
- name a mountain after her
- an Internet site
- a museum exhibition
- postage stamps
- studied in history lessons

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.