

Unit 7 Reading

Emmeline Pankhurst

<Biographical Sketch>

TIME magazine declared Emmeline Pankhurst to be “One of the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century.” Many people, though, have never heard of this influential woman and of how she transformed the lives of women in England at the beginning of that century.

Emmeline Goulden Pankhurst was born in 1858 to a wealthy family in Victorian England, where she proved a dutiful daughter, wife, and mother of five. She was also a **renegade**—an outspoken suffragist and a leader in the struggle to gain British women the right to vote. Mrs. Pankhurst (as she preferred to be called) was struck by an incongruous fact: Women could own property and pay taxes if they held a job, but they had no legal right to vote. By 1903, the traditional women’s suffrage organizations had met with little success. Disillusioned and angry over the government’s backpedaling and broken promises, Pankhurst formed a more militant group, the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU). The WSPU engaged in political activism: Members introduced **chaos** into a society that was used to order. They broke windows and started fires, shaking things up to draw attention to their cause. WSPU’s battle cry was “Votes for Women!” Its motto was “Deeds, Not Words.”

These were **turbulent** times. Most politicians (at this time, all men) were **vociferous** in their opposition to women’s suffrage: They jeered and taunted and spoke as if they **abhorred** women. Newspapers published scathing, **corrosive** editorials that criticized the WSPU and its tactics. (One of London’s daily papers originated the term suffragette to ridicule the protesters. The name stuck. In fact, WSPU members embraced it and used it themselves.)

Some of the activities of the suffragettes—such as breaking windows and starting fires—were viewed as **reprehensible**, but the actions of the government, police, and prison wardens were worse. Women were battered and **buffeted** in demonstrations, and some were **implicated** in plots to destabilize straight-laced British society. Arrested protesters were jailed in **squalid** conditions, and many who **waived** their right to food to protest their incarceration were brutally

force-fed. Pankhurst was imprisoned 12 times in one year alone in an attempt to **obviate** her continued participation in WSPU activities. During one court hearing, she said, “We are here, not because we are lawbreakers. We are here in our efforts to become lawmakers.”

Pankhurst influenced American suffragist Alice Paul, who led a celebrated march of 5,000 people—women and men—in Washington, D.C., in 1913. Paul had protested in London, been jailed, and forcibly fed, and this experience galvanized her into action when she returned home. The march she led was a turning point for U.S. women’s suffrage, although it was to take seven more years before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women full voting rights, was ratified. Back in Britain, women over 30 were awarded the right to vote in 1918. Ten years later, the year Pankhurst died, the law was **amended**, and women were accorded the same voting rights as men.

Pankhurst’s historical legacy is controversial. Some people view her as a forward- and clear-thinking heroine who had **discerned** the only effective way to get the vote for women. Critics say she was a self-serving **martinet** who demanded complete loyalty from her followers. One thing most can agree on: The determination and courage of one genteel, soft-spoken woman inspired a revolution, the effects of which persist to this day.

Unit 7 Examples

1. A pacifist is someone who **abhors** violence in all its forms.
2. If you are not doing well in a particular subject, you may want to **amend** your way of studying it.
3. Blinding snowstorms **buffet** the barren landmass of Antarctica for months on end.
4. Few figures in history or literature are as severely tested by fortune's **buffets** as Job in the Old Testament.
5. A great many people lost their fortunes and even their lives in the **chaos** brought on by the French Revolution.
6. No one would expect a tiny studio apartment to have particularly **commodious** closets.
7. Sulfuric acid is one of the most **corrosive** substances known to chemistry.
8. It is a jury's job to **discern** the truth by carefully evaluating all the evidence presented at trial.
9. The paintings of animals and human hands in Spain's Altamira caves are among the oldest **extant** specimens of Stone Age art.
10. The suspects never stood trial because there was no solid evidence to **implicate** them in the daring series of robberies.
11. Jewels and other objects once **interred** with Egypt's pharaohs can now be seen in numerous museums all over the world.
12. When it came to drilling troops, the Revolutionary War general Baron Friedrich von Steuben was something of a **martinet**.
13. Vaccinations can do much to **obviate** the dangers of childhood illnesses.
14. Many a writer has been labeled a **renegade** for refusing to conform to society's conventions.
15. **Renegade** senators from the President's own party joined the opposition to defeat the bill.
16. Stalin eliminated many potential rivals by accusing them of all sorts of **reprehensible** acts that they did not commit.

17. The atmosphere in the locker room of the losing team could best be described as **somber**.
18. Many laws prohibit the types of **squalid** working conditions found in sweatshops.
19. Letters and diary entries may reveal a person's lifelong struggle to gain some control over **turbulent** emotions.
20. Relief agencies regularly make **vociferous** appeals for aid for victims of war, terrorism, and natural disasters.
21. The task of summarizing the **voluminous** reports issued by government agencies may fall to members of a legislator's staff.
22. The senator agreed to **waive** opposition to the proposed bill if some of its more controversial provisions were substantially modified.

Unit 7 Choosing the Right Word

1. In 1940, Winston Churchill conveyed to the British people the **somber** truth that they were fighting for their national existence.
2. When he accused me of playing fast and loose with the rules, I lost my temper and called him an officious **martinet**.
3. Hoping it was not too late to **amend** their relationship, the young man purchased a lovely bouquet of roses.
4. I'm not so sure that I want to rent a bungalow so **commodious** that I'll have room for guests every weekend.
5. We can expect **chaos** later if we do not develop a realistic conservation policy now.
6. Instead of trying to help the people who had elected him, he became involved in a **squalid** little quarrel about handing out jobs.
7. We sometimes forget that the great men who led our revolution were considered **renegades** by the British king.
8. The Tech team was offside on the play; but since we had thrown them for an eight-yard loss, we **waived** the five-yard penalty.
9. Didn't it occur to them that by signing the letter "Sophomores of Central High," they would **implicate** the entire class in the protest?
10. I wouldn't say that I **abhor** housework, but I must admit that I avoid it whenever I can.
11. Some people prefer the **turbulence** of life in a big city to the more placid atmosphere of a small town.
12. At lunchtime, the room rang with the sound of **vociferous** debates between the fans of rival teams.
13. The custom by which a young man buys his bride through a payment to her father is still **extant** in some parts of the world.
14. Did you know that many soft drinks, especially colas, are so **corrosive** that they can erode tooth enamel over time?
15. The Founding Fathers set up a method of **amending** the Constitution that is neither too easy nor too difficult to use.

16. A lack of organizational skills can make a student's life **chaotic** right before a busy exam season.
17. According to cryptozoologists—people who search for proof that legendary creatures exist—Bigfoot might be a large prehistoric humanoid that is still **extant**.
18. Which great poet said that his head was “bloody but unbowed” under the **buffeting** of fate?
19. I don't know which was more **reprehensible**—making improper use of the money or lying about it later.
20. History gives us many examples of how the **corrosive** effects of religious hatred can weaken the entire social structure.
21. Even in his old age, Thomas Jefferson kept up a **voluminous** correspondence with important people in America and abroad.
22. The time has come for us to **inter** our ancient disputes and go forward as a truly united people.
23. A compromise agreement reached in the judge's chambers would clearly **obviate** the need for a long, costly lawsuit.
24. If you examine the evidence carefully, you will soon **discern** the contradictions in the witness's story.
25. If you **abhor** blood, then you should probably not be a nurse.

Unit 7 Synonyms

1. **Battered** by fluctuations in the stock market: **buffeted**
2. A **vast** and elegant hotel lobby: **commodious**
3. **Noticed** a change in public opinion: **discerned**
4. A treasure **laid to rest**: **interred**
5. Willing to **alter** long-standing company policy: **amend**
6. **Avert** further debate: **obviate**
7. The **solemn** tolling of church bells: **somber**
8. Condemned by all as a **defector**: **renegade**
9. A formerly endangered, now **thriving** species: **extant**
10. **Copious** pieces of evidence: **voluminous**

Unit 7 Antonyms

1. Seeking **confined** lodging: **commodious**
2. **Dug up** the ancient king's remains: **interred**
3. Took **succinct** notes during the meeting: **voluminous**
4. A custom thought to be **defunct**: **extant**
5. The **cheerful** face of the lottery winner: **somber**

Unit 7 Completing the Sentence

1. It is particularly **reprehensible** for citizens to fail to vote in national elections and then complain about the government.
2. The records of the school board meeting on the proposed bond issue are so **voluminous** that it would take me a week to read them.
3. A person who changes from one political party to another on the basis of honest conviction should not be regarded as a(n) **renegade**.
4. I didn't expect you to like my suggestion, but I was shocked by your bitter and **corrosive** criticism of it.
5. One of the signs of maturity is the ability to **discern** the difference between things that are secondary and things that are truly important.
6. Although our drill instructor was determined to follow the rules, he was by no means an overbearing **martinet**.
7. The trunk of the car was so **commodious** that it held all of our skiing equipment as well as our other luggage.
8. We Americans are proud that each change of the national administration, far from being **turbulent**, is carried out in a peaceful and friendly manner.
9. Who would not feel depressed on entering that **somber** old courtroom, with its dim lighting and dark, massive furnishings?
10. Confident that she could present the case effectively to a judge, the lawyer advised her client to **waive** his right to a jury trial.
11. The American writer Dorothy Parker was celebrated for her sharp tongue and **vociferous** wit.
12. In a natural history museum, we can see physical remains of many species of animals that are no longer **extant**.
13. Getting a good education will do much to **obviate** the problem of finding a job that pays well.
14. Shakespeare tells us that "the evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft **interred** with their bones."

15. Those accused of crimes are sometimes willing to **implicate** their accomplices in return for immunity from prosecution.
16. Let me say frankly that I **abhor** prejudice in anyone, even a member of my own family.
17. Are we justified in showing visitors only the most attractive and interesting sections of our cities, towns, or villages while keeping them away from the **squalid** neighborhoods where so many people live?
18. In our frantic search for the missing papers, we overturned everything in the room, leaving it in complete **chaos**.
19. We are petitioning the council to **amend** its procedures so that all citizens will have a chance to express their opinions.
20. A person who has been **buffeted** about by many dreadful misfortunes will either become stronger or suffer a complete breakdown.

Unit 7 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. But now that he was enveloped in the old calico robes which had grown yellow in the same service, he was badged and ticketed, and fell into his place at once—a parish child—the orphan of a workhouse—the humble, half-starved drudge—to be cuffed and **buffeted** through the world—despised by all, and pitied by none.

A **buffeted** person will be

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ① served food | ② knocked around |
| ③ sheltered and protected | ④ pampered and praised |

2. At this moment the noise grew louder. Sikes, again looking round, could **discern** that the men who had given chase were already climbing the gate of the field in which he stood; and that a couple of dogs were some paces in advance of them.

To **discern** activity is to

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|------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
| ① value it | ② stop it | ③ observe it | ④ critique it |
|------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|

3. “When is it to be done?” asked Nancy, stopping some **turbulent** exclamation on the part of Mr. Sikes, expressive of the disgust with which he received Fagin’s affectation of humanity.

A **turbulent** exclamation is most likely

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|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| ① fierce | ② irrelevant | ③ soothing | ④ ironic |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------|

4. The stars seemed, to the boy's eyes, farther from the earth than he had ever seen them before; there was no wind; and the **somber** shadows thrown by the trees upon the ground, looked sepulchral and death-like, from being so still.

Somber shadows are

- ① distinctive ② elongated ③ sprightly ④ **ominous**

5. The houses on either side were high and large, but very old, and tenanted by people of the poorest class; as their neglected appearance would have sufficiently denoted, without the concurrent testimony afforded by the **squalid** looks of the few men and women who, with folded arms and bodies half doubled, occasionally skulked along.

A **squalid** appearance is NOT

- ① neglected ② **respectable** ③ grimy ④ miserable

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These were _____ times. Most politicians (at this time, all men) were _____ in their opposition to women’s suffrage: They jeered and taunted and spoke as if they _____ women. Newspapers published scathing, _____ editorials that criticized the WSPU and its tactics. (One of London’s daily papers originated the term suffragette to ridicule the protesters. The name stuck. In fact, WSPU members embraced it and used it themselves.)

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Unit 7 Synonyms

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5. The **cheerful** face of the lottery winner: _____

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Unit 7 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

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A **buffeted** person will be

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|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ① served food | ② knocked around |
| ③ sheltered and protected | ④ pampered and praised |

3. At this moment the noise grew louder. Sikes, again looking round, could **discern** that the men who had given chase were already climbing the gate of the field in which he stood; and that a couple of dogs were some paces in advance of them.

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| ① value it | ② stop it | ③ observe it | ④ critique it |
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Somber shadows are

- ① distinctive ② elongated ③ sprightly ④ ominous

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A **squalid** appearance is NOT

- ① neglected ② respectable ③ grimy ④ miserable