

Name:

Day One

Venus Williams Speaks Out

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out how Venus Williams fought for equal pay. Read silently.

Venus Williams is an international tennis celebrity. She has won Olympic gold medals. She has been ranked the number one women's player in the world. Her skills on the court have made her rich and famous. She has used her fame to speak out against unfair prize money.

Williams took on officials from one of the world's most famous tennis tournaments: Wimbledon. For years, women who played at Wimbledon won less prize money than men. In 2005, Williams met with Wimbledon officials. She said unequal prize money was unfair. She pointed out that she and other women stars attracted many fans to Wimbledon. How could they be paid less than the men? The officials listened politely. But they refused to increase the women's prize money.

Williams would not give up. In 2006, she wrote a powerful letter to *The Times*, a popular British newspaper. The letter said, "With power and status comes responsibility. Well, Wimbledon has power and status. The time has come for it to do the right thing."

This time, Wimbledon officials could not ignore Venus Williams. Starting in 2007, Wimbledon began awarding equal prize money. That year, Williams was ranked 31st in the world. She was not expected to do well at Wimbledon. However, she surprised everyone and won the tournament. For the first time, thanks to Williams, the men's and women's champions took home equal prizes.



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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did Venus Williams meet with Wimbledon officials?

Where did Venus Williams send her letter?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Venus Williams is an international tennis celebrity. // She has won Olympic gold medals. // She has been ranked the number one women’s player / in the world. // Her skills on the court have made her rich / and famous. // She has used her fame to speak out / against unfair prize money. //

Williams took on officials / from one of the world’s most famous tennis tournaments: / Wimbledon. // For years, / women who played at Wimbledon won less prize money / than men. // In 2005, / Williams met with Wimbledon officials. // She said unequal prize money was unfair. // She pointed out that she and other women stars / attracted many fans to Wimbledon. // How could they be paid less than the men? // The officials listened politely. // But they refused to increase the women’s prize money. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.