Debate skills for women in the workplace

Key:
1. commercial barrister
2. foundation
3. empowerment
4. struggle with
5. predominantly
6. empathetic
7. internship
8. temper

3. Understanding the article

Students read the article and decide if the statements are true or false. They then correct the statements they think are false.

Key:
1. False. It was a problem in the past and still is a big problem.
2. True.
3. False. The confidence gap is a big issue but women also find it difficult to express themselves without being interrupted.
4. True.
5. False. People think you’re born with confidence but it is a skill you can learn.

4. Discussion

In small groups, students discuss the questions which pick up on and expand on topics and quotes from the article. Hold a short whole-group feedback session and compare and contrast each group’s answers and input.

5. Wider business theme – Soft skills

A Learners discuss the questions in pairs. Then lead a short open class discussion to ensure everyone has the same definition of soft skills – skills that are not central to core work (hard skills) but make doing work easier.

B Divide the class into groups of two or three and ask each group to read the list of top soft skills. Ask them to rank the skills in order of importance.

C When each group has finished, ask them to compare their list with another group and discuss any differences.

One-to-one teaching

Ask the student to rank the skills and present their list to you. Ask them why they put each skill in that position.