Debate skills for women in the workplace

Key:
1. commercial barrister
2. embed into the foundation
3. empowerment
4. struggle with confidence
5. predominantly
6. empathetic listening
7. internship programmes
8. confrontational
9. lose their temper
10. premise

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. Women are often interrupted by men.
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 give each group a different soft skill card (or several cards if you don’t have enough groups for one card each). Ask the groups to prepare a short presentation on the topic using the internet to help them.
C After each group has presented, lead a short discussion and ask the class to vote on what they think is the most important skill.

One-to-one teaching
Ask the student to choose one or two of the skills and prepare a presentation for homework, which they deliver at the start of the next lesson.

Soft skills cards – Exercise 6

Communication  Leadership  Creativity

Problem solving  Relationship building  Flexibility

Time-management  Negotiation skills  Leaning