



In 1955, Rosa Parks lived in Alabama in the USA. One day she got on a bus. She sat in the middle of the bus. Some white people got on the bus. They sat at the front of the bus.

Later, some more white people got on. There were no seats left. The driver told Rosa to stand up and give her seat to the white people. This was the law. Black people had to give their seats to white people. But Rosa refused to give up her seat.

The bus driver called the police. They arrested Rosa and took her to the police station. The next Monday, she had to go to court.

Black leaders gave out 35,000 leaflets. They asked everyone to stay off the buses. The leaflet said "You can afford to stay out of school for one day. If you work, take a taxi, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don't ride on the bus at all on Monday. Please stay off the buses on Monday."

It rained that day, but the people did not go on the buses. Some rode in cars with friends, some travelled in taxis, but most walked. Some walked as far as 20 miles.



Rosa Parks and U.S. President Bill Clinton



Rosa Parks in 1955, with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the background.
photo from Wikipedia

This was called a boycott. They boycotted the buses.

In court Rosa was found guilty and she was fined \$10. But the boycott did not stop. The boycott lasted for 381 days. No-one used the buses. No-one paid the bus company. The bus company lost a lot of money.

In the end the law was changed. Black people didn't have to give up their seats to white people. They could sit anywhere they wanted on buses.

Rosa Parks refused to stand up and give her seat to a white person.

Ask 5 friends:

Have you ever refused to do something? What was it?

Write down what your friends refused to do.

Now write about yourself. Write about something you refused to do.



Talk about this passage with some friends. Decide which words fit in each space:

One day in 1955 Rosa Parks was sitting in a bus. Some white people got on the bus.

There were no seats left. The _____ 1 _____ told Rosa to give her seat to the white people. This was the _____ 2 _____. Black people had to give their seats to white people. But Rosa _____ 3 _____ to give up her seat.

The bus driver called the police. They _____ 4 _____ Rosa and took her to the police station. The next Monday, she had to go to _____ 5 _____.

Black _____ 6 _____ gave out 35,000 _____ 7 _____. They said "You can _____ 8 _____ to stay out of school for one day. If you work, take a taxi, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, please stay off the buses on Monday." It rained that day, but the people did not go on the buses. Some rode in cars with friends, but most walked. This was called a _____ 9 _____. They _____ 10 _____ the buses.

The boycott lasted for 381 days. No-one used the buses. No-one paid the bus company so it lost a lot of money. In the end the law was _____ 11 _____. Black people didn't have to give up their seats to white people. They could sit anywhere they wanted on buses.

afford
arrested
boycott

boycotted
changed
court

driver
law
leaders

leaflets
refused



Rosa Parks

TEACHERS' NOTES:

Language learning objectives			
Language functions	narrating		
Sentence structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had to • She refused to 		
Key vocabulary	refused law arrested court fined	guilty boycott arrested leaflets afford	left (<i>as in</i> no seats left) leaders

Suggested lesson outline

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about the key vocabulary (see “language learning objectives” above) to ensure that learners understand the words. 2. Ask learners to read the passage silently. 3. Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to re-tell the anecdote (without looking at the passage) either in English or first language. 4. Groups then re-read the passage together. 5. Pairs or threes practise the questions/answers in the substitution table. 6. Written work. 	<p>BLANKS</p> <p>The passage with the blanks in it could be used at any stage – with advanced learners it could be used at the beginning of the lesson – with others it could be used in the middle of the lesson or at the end.</p>
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