

Lesson Plan: The 44th & 45th USA Presidents *Teacher's Notes*

Level: Upper-Intermediate

Aim: This timely lesson aims at offering students the opportunity to discuss a current event and therefore boost their motivation to learn English. Students will get listening practice, learn new vocabulary and improve their communicative skills.

Materials: Sean Banville's lesson on *Barack Obama* and *Donald Trump* from his wonderful website famouspeoplelessons.com



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Presidents

www.cristinacabal.com

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Step 1. Warming Up

Predicting. Write the following words on the board and ask students to guess what the activity is going to be about.

politician, businessman, wealthy, Republican, Democratic, controversial

Speaking. Show the picture of Donald Trump and ask students in pairs to share any information they have about the new president of the USA.

Slide the juxtapose, (that's how the sliding picture below is called) and show the image of Barack Obama. Again, ask students to share what they know about the former president of the USA.



Step 2. Listening

Divide the class into As and Bs. Tell As they are going to listen to some information about Barack Obama and Bs about Donald Trump.

Give student A a photocopy containing Obama's exercises for Listening Gap Fill and Synonym Match and give student B a photocopy containing Trump's exercises for Listening Gap Fill and Synonym Match. (see links above)

Procedure: Play Obama once and ask student A to fill in the gaps with the words they hear. Play Trump once and ask students to do the same. Play each part one or twice more, depending on the level of your students. Correct both exercises, teach any vocabulary they don't know and drill pronunciation.

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Step 3. Working on Vocabulary

Ask students to do the Synonym Match exercise in their photocopies. Point out that this exercise is very important as they will need to use some of this vocabulary in the next exercise.

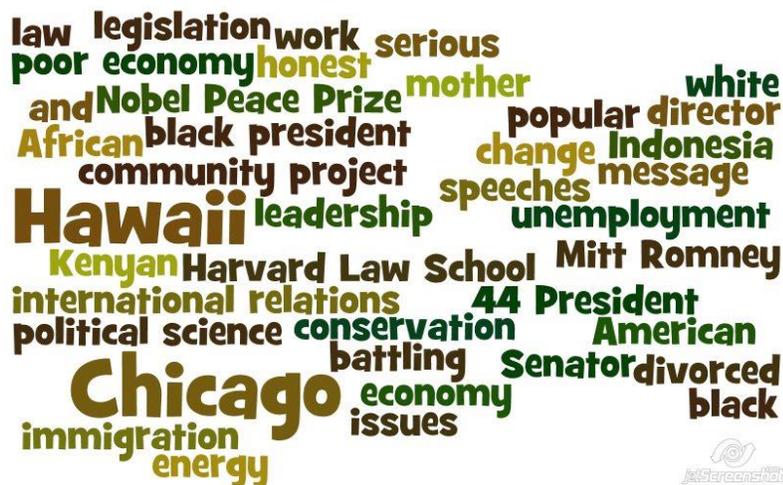
Step 4. Building a Word Cloud with Students' Suggestions

Tell students that they will now have to read their part several times as the next step will be retelling their text in as much detail as possible. As they read, ask them to underline any key words that might help them retell their biography.

Open [Wordle](#) (it works better on Firefox) and ask students A to feed the word cloud with the words they have underlined. Open a new tab and do the same with student B.

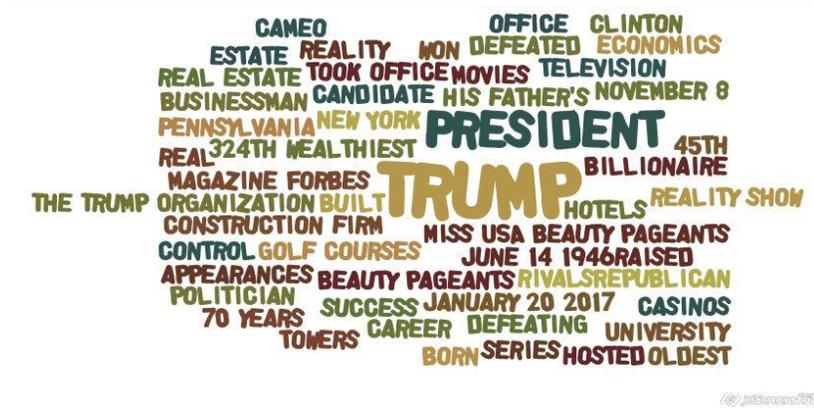
Alternatively you can use mine .

OBAMA



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TRUMP



Step 5. Retelling

Pair up student A and student B. Display the word cloud for Obama and ask student A to retell Obama's biography in as much detail as possible and using the prompts in the cloud. Repeat procedure for student B.

Step 6. Homework

Check out the creative suggestions Sean gives for homework.

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OBAMA

TRANSCRIPT

Barack Obama is the 44 President of the United States of America. He is also the winner of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He made history in 2008 when he won the U.S. presidential election. He is the first African American to be President. Obama's charisma, intelligence, and powerful speeches have made him extremely popular with many Americans. He has been very successful with his message for change.

Obama was born in Hawaii in 1961 to a black Kenyan father and white American mother. His parents divorced and his mother married an Indonesian man. Barack's family moved to Indonesia in 1967. He attended schools in Jakarta until he was ten years old, when he returned to Hawaii. Obama majored in political science and international relations at Columbia University in New York.

After four years in New York, Obama moved to Chicago. There, he worked as the director of a community project from 1985 to 1988. He entered Harvard Law School and became the first black president of the Harvard Law Review. Obama taught law at the University of Chicago Law School for twelve years. He became an Illinois Senator in 1996.

In 2004, Obama was elected as a U.S. Senator. He supported legislation on conservation, energy, immigration and honest leadership. Obama is currently battling with serious issues such as the economy. He beat Mitt Romney to win a second term in office, despite a poor economy and high unemployment. He thanked voters by promising to spend his second term honoring their support, saying: "There's a lot more work to do."

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. United States of America | <i>a.</i> the States |
| 2. charisma | <i>b.</i> charm |
| 3. extremely | <i>c.</i> very |
| 4. divorced | <i>d.</i> separated |
| 5. moved | <i>e.</i> relocated |
| 6. attended | <i>f.</i> went to |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 7. project | <i>g.</i> programme |
| 8. entered | <i>h.</i> enrolled in |
| 9. taught | <i>i.</i> lectured in |
| 10. legislation | <i>j.</i> laws |
| 11. currently | <i>k.</i> presently |
| 12. term | <i>l.</i> time in office |

TRUMP

TRANSCRIPT

Donald John Trump is an American businessman and politician. He is also the 45th President of the United States of America. He was the chairman and president of The Trump Organization, which looks after his real estate and

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other business interests. He has built office towers, hotels, casinos and golf courses all over the world. He has also hosted a reality TV show and owned beauty pageants.

Donald J. Trump was born on June 14, 1946. He was raised in New York City, the second youngest child of five children. He studied at the University of Pennsylvania and received a bachelor's degree in economics. In 1971 he was given control of his father's real estate and construction firm and later renamed it The Trump Organization. His success as a businessman made him a billionaire.

Donald Trump has had a very varied career. He owned the Miss USA beauty pageants from 1996 to 2015. He has made cameo appearances in movies and television series and hosted a reality TV show from 2004 to 2015. In 2016, the wealth and business magazine Forbes listed him as the 324th wealthiest person in the world.

In June 2015, Trump announced his candidacy for President. He defeated his rivals to become the Republican Party candidate and promised to "make America great again". He won the presidential election on November 8, 2016, defeating the Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. He took office on January 20, 2017. At 70 years, 7 months and 6 days, he was the oldest person to do so.

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

1. businessman
2. real estate
3. pageants
4. raised
5. construction
6. firm

- a.* entrepreneur
- b.* property
- c.* shows
- d.* brought up
- e.* building
- f.* company

Paragraphs 3 and 4

7. varied
8. hosted
9. listed
10. announced
11. candidate
12. defeating

- g.* diverse
- h.* presented
- i.* ranked
- j.* declared
- k.* contender
- l.* beating

