

# US ELECTION

## Students' notes

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Level: B2

Time: 60 minutes

## WARMER

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What is the minimum voting age in your country? Should it be higher or lower?

What are the main political parties in your country? Who is the most controversial politician?

Do you think voting is important?

"If you don't vote, you have no right to complain". Do you agree?

What can be done to encourage more people to vote?

## VOCABULARY

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Match the words on the left with explanations on the right

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. POTUS /'pɒtəs/   | <i>a. to vote in an election</i>   |
| 2. to cast a ballot | <i>b. small area with walls on 3 sides where you can vote in private</i>               |
| 3. a ballot         | <i>c. piece of paper on which you indicate your choice or opinion in a secret vote</i> |
| 4. candidate        | <i>d. a formally constituted political group</i>                                       |
| 5. polling booth    | <i>e. a president of the united states</i>   |
| 6. political party  | <i>f. someone who is running in an election</i>  |
| 7. allegiance       | <i>g. loyalty or commitment to a superior or to a group or cause</i>                   |

Match the collocations

- 
- |            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. pick    | a. allegiance /ə'li:.dʒəns/ |
| 2. primary | b. a candidate              |
| 3. make    | c. speech                   |
| 4. hold    | d. conventions              |
| 5. party   | e. election                 |
| 6. victory | f. a choice                 |
- 

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

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LISTENING FOR GIST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlk16F9ICTk>

True or false?

1. Choosing a new president is a long and complex process.

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2. Some states are more important than others
3. In the primary election, all the states vote at the same time and on the same day
3. There are three main political parties.

### LISTENING FOR DETAIL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlk16F9ICTk>

1. What are primaries? When do they take place?
2. What is a caucus state?
3. Is New Hampshire a caucus ([/kɔːkəs/](#)) state? Why (not)?
4. What are swing states?
5. Why do some states have more electoral college votes than others?

### DEBATE

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In small groups, discuss the following quotations

*The ballot is stronger than the bullet.* Abraham Lincoln

*Voters don't decide issues; they decide who will decide issues.* George Will

### HOMEWORK

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Choose one of the quotes above and write an essay giving your opinion.

- [Click here to see how to write an opinion essay](#)

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# TEACHER'S NOTES

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## VOCABULARY

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Match the words on the left with explanations on the right

1. E
2. A
3. C
4. F
5. B
6. D
7. G

Match the collocations

- 
1. pick a candidate
  2. primary election
  3. make a choice
  4. hold conventions
  5. party allegiance
  6. victory speech
- 

## LISTENING FOR GIST

True or false?

1. Choosing a new president is a long and complex process. TRUE
2. Some states are more important than others. TRUE
3. In the primary election, all the states vote at the same time and on the same day. FALSE
3. There are three main political parties. FALSE

## LISTENING FOR DETAIL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlk16F9ICTk>

1. What are primaries? When do they take place?

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The primary election, also called primaries, is when republicans and democrats pick their candidates for president. It takes place between January and June

2. What is a caucus state?

Caucus states are the ones where, on election night, voters gather in meetings and openly make their choice. It was once a common way of nominating a presidential candidate, but nowadays it only takes place in a 5<sup>th</sup> of US states.

3. Is New Hampshire a caucus ([kɔ:kəs](#)/) state? Why (not)?

No, it is not. It's a more typical election where voters go into a polling booth.

4. What are swing states?

They are very important states as it is there where election is usually decided. They are states where the population often changes their party allegiance.

5. Why do some states have more electoral college votes than others? The number is decided on their population.