



Elections and voting

Lesson code: L9KX-K2GB-AXJU-L

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

1 People involved in elections

Match the people below with what they do.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. a presidential candidate | a. a PR specialist who tries to maintain a candidate's positive image in the media |
| 2. a running mate | b. a candidate for vice president (in the US) |
| 3. a president-elect | c. a person who assists voters during elections |
| 4. the first lady | d. a person who has won a presidential election but is not yet the official president |
| 5. a campaign manager | e. someone who competes in an election to become president |
| 6. a spin doctor | f. someone who favours a certain candidate |
| 7. an election clerk | g. the candidate who is leading during an election |
| 8. a front runner | h. the person responsible for planning a candidate's campaign |
| 9. a supporter | i. the wife of the president |

In pairs, complete the sentences with the words above:

1. Mark is a strong _____ of Barack Obama -- he even sent some money to contribute to his campaign.
2. The _____ cannot fulfill his duties until the serving president steps down from office. This usually takes a couple months.
3. When the candidate won the election, his wife started looking forward to becoming _____.
4. A candidate's charisma and experience would mean nothing without a good _____, who keeps the organisation of the campaign under control.
5. When I voted for the first time, the _____ explained me how the election process works.
6. After his popularity dropped, the candidate took the advice of his _____ and started to appear on TV more often.
7. Before a presidential election, each party must select a _____.

2 Talking point

Do you vote? Why/why not?



3 Election day

In pairs, complete the sentences below with the following words.

ballot card

election results

high
turnout

polling station

votes

voting booth

1. At the end of an election, the _____ are counted, and a winner is determined.
2. The voting process takes place at a _____ .
3. If there is a _____ at an election, many people voted.
4. Voting is secret because nobody can look inside the _____ .
5. When the _____ are announced, everybody knows who officially won.
6. During an election, voters tick their favourite candidate on a _____ .

Discuss the questions below:

1. Is there usually a high turnout in your country?
2. What do polling stations look like in your country?
3. What percentage of votes does a candidate or party need to win an election in your country?

4 Collocations with 'election'

Complete the sentences with the verbs below. Use a dictionary where necessary.

held
postponeboycott
rigcall
stand for

1. Elections are usually held every four years.
2. The Prime Minister decided to _____ an election early because he was confident of winning.
3. The opposition didn't agree with the result. They accused the government of trying to _____ the election.
4. The government decided to _____ the election to a later date.
5. The opposition party decided to _____ the election in protest against the government's tactics.
6. The former president became popular again, so his advisers persuaded him to _____ election.



Discuss the questions below:

1. Why would a political party boycott an election?
2. How often are elections held in your country?
3. What methods are commonly used to rig elections?
4. Does your country have a president? How many times is he allowed to stand for election?
5. Why do governments call elections early?
6. Under what circumstances could a government postpone an election?



1 People involved in elections

1. e 2. b 3. d 4. i 5. h 6. a 7. c 8. g 9. f

Complete the sentences:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. supporter | 2. president-elect | 3. first lady |
| 4. campaign manager | 5. election clerk | 6. spin doctor |
| 7. presidential candidate | | |

3 Election day

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. votes | 2. polling station | 3. high turnout |
| 4. voting booth | 5. election results | 6. ballot card |

4 Collocations with 'election'

2. call
3. rig
4. postpone
5. boycott
6. stand for

