
Obama wins again

WORKSHEET A

In the United States presidential election on 6th November, Barack Obama of the Democratic Party beat Mitt Romney of the Republican Party. Obama will therefore continue as President of the United States, a position he has held since his first election victory in 2008. That first victory was a historic moment, of course, because Obama became the United States' first-ever black president.

About 122 million Americans voted in this year's election. Obama won 50.5% of their votes; Romney won 48%. The other 1.5% went to other candidates.

Obama won because he received more votes than Romney in most of those states where it is usually a close fight between the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates – the so-called 'swing states'. Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Colorado and Florida are all swing states where Obama won.

Obama is going to face some big economic problems in his second term. The US government has a very large debt and is therefore going to have to limit its spending. Obama also wants to increase taxes on the wealthiest people in the country, but this won't be easy because most of the Republican representatives in the US Congress are strongly opposed to tax rises of any kind.

The US continues to be a very powerful country, of course. Its foreign policy has an impact in many parts of the world, which is one of the reasons why so many people outside the US were interested in the result of the election. Opinion polls in most other countries showed that Obama was more popular than Romney. Indeed, if the whole world had been able to vote in the election, Obama would have won much more easily than he did.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps.

1. **_ _ r _ y** (noun): organised group of people who have similar ideas about how a country should be governed, and who work together to try to get people to vote for them in elections
2. **c _ _ d _ d _ _ e** (noun): one of the people competing in an election
3. **d _ _ t** (noun): an amount of money that you owe
4. **_ p _ _ _ o _ p _ _ l** (noun): an attempt to find out what people in general think about a subject by asking some people questions about it
5. **_ e _ l _ h _** (adjective): person, organisation or country that has a lot of money, land or other valuable things
6. **p _ s _ _ i _ _** (noun): job
7. If you **f _ _ e** (verb) a problem, it is likely or certain to happen and you have to do something about it.
8. Someone who is **_ pp _ _ _ d** (adjective) to something thinks it should not happen or should not be done.
9. **t _ _ m** (noun): a period of time during which a politician or other official holds their job
10. **c _ o _ _** (adjective): won or settled by only a few points, votes etc

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

One word has been taken out of each line of the text: how many of the missing words can you remember and replace?

- (1) In the United States presidential election 6th November, Barack Obama of the
- (2) Democratic Party beat Mitt Romney of Republican Party. Obama will
- (3) therefore continue as President of the United States, a position he held since
- (4) his first election victory in 2008. That first victory was a historic moment, course,
- (5) because Obama became the United States' -ever black president.
- (6) About 122 million Americans in this year's election. Obama won 50.5% of
- (7) their; Romney won 48%. The other 1.5% went to other candidates.
- (8) Obama won he received more votes than Romney in most of those states
- (9) where it is usually a close fight the Democratic and Republican
- (10) presidential candidates – the -called 'swing states'. Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania,
- (11) Nevada, Colorado and Florida are all swing states where Obama.
- (12) Obama going to face some big economic problems in his second term. The US
- (13) government has a very large debt and is therefore to have to limit its
- (14) spending. Obama also wants to taxes on the wealthiest people in the
- (15) country, but this won't be because most of the Republican representatives in
- (16) the US Congress are strongly opposed tax rises of any kind.
- (17) The US continues to be a very powerful, of course. Its foreign policy has
- (18) an impact in many parts of the, which is one of the reasons why so many
- (19) people outside the US were interested the result of the election. Opinion polls
- (20) in most other countries showed that Obama was more than Romney.
- (21) Indeed, if the whole world had been to vote in the election, Obama would
- (22) have won much easily than he did.