

1. Obama wins again

This week's lesson is about Barack Obama's victory in the United States presidential election on 6th November.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of Barack Obama: what do your students know about him? What do they like/dislike about him? Then ask your students what happened in the recent United States presidential election. (Be aware, however, that some of the vocabulary that might come up when discussing the election is introduced in the text and tested in the exercises.)
2. Give your students sufficient time to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note, however, that many of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to do Exercise 1, in which they have to find the words to match the definitions.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to give them back to you temporarily. Then, keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask them to move on to Exercise 2, in which one word has been omitted from each line of the text. With no indication of what the words were, or any gaps to show exactly where they have been taken from, how many of the words can the students remember and replace? This is not a test of memory alone, however: the students should be able to draw on their grammatical and lexical knowledge, and you should also point out that both the glossary and the students' correct answers to Exercise 1, on Worksheet B, should be of some use. Award a point for each word that is correctly replaced. (You could perhaps award half a point if the students come up with a word that fits the sentence but is not actually the original word.)
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. party 2. candidate 3. debt 4. opinion poll 5. wealthy
6. position 7. face 8. opposed 9. term 10. close

Exercise 2

1. on 2. the 3. has 4. of 5. first 6. voted 7. votes 8. because
9. between 10. so 11. won 12. is 13. going 14. increase 15. easy
16. to 17. country 18. world 19. in 20. popular 21. able 22. more

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government>

Official website of the US government, which explains its different branches and systems and how they work. Also contains links to information on President Obama and other important officials. Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/researchtools/researchstarters/presidents/>

A resource for teachers about presidential versus parliamentary systems of government (as in the United Kingdom, for instance). With student activities and research topic suggestions. 'Research Starter' texts are challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.electionguide.org/>

A guide to elections around the world, with information on the next election for each country, current leaders, type of government and electoral (voting) system. Accessible to Intermediate level.