

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210122-joe-biden.html>

Joe Biden has promised to re-establish global alliances in his first speech as U.S. President. Mr Biden was sworn in as the 46th U.S. President on Wednesday amid tight security in Washington. In unprecedented scenes, around 25,000 National Guard troops were positioned to make sure the inauguration took place without incident. In the first days of his presidency, Mr Biden will make several executive orders to change the direction of America's foreign policy. He will rejoin the Paris climate accord. Biden spoke about restoring America's reputation overseas. He said: "America has been tested. And we've come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again."

Outgoing President Donald Trump left office vowing to "be back". His parting words to the American public were: "Have a good life, we will see you soon." Mr Trump broke with tradition by not attending his successor's inauguration. In his farewell speech, Mr Trump said: "This has been an incredible four years. We've accomplished so much together. What we've done has been amazing by any standard." He added: "It's been a great honour and privilege to be your president. I will always fight for you....I wish the new administration great luck and great success. I think they will have great success. They have the foundation to do something really spectacular."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/20/trump-leaves-white-house-biden-to-be-sworn-in>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2021/01/20/inauguration-day-world-watches-trump-exits-biden-takes-over/4209958001/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-55736856>

WARM-UPS

1. JOE BIDEN: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Joe Biden. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

global / alliance / security / unprecedented / inauguration / presidency / reputation / office / parting words / a good life / tradition / accomplish / privilege / luck / success

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SUCCESS: Students A **strongly** believe Joe Biden's administration will be successful; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What do you know about these U.S. Presidents? How good were they? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What You Know	How Good Were They?
Donald Trump		
Barack Obama		
George W Bush		
John F. Kennedy		
Abraham Lincoln		
George Washington		

5. PRESIDENT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "president". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. POLICY: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important policy areas at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Foreign policy
- Healthcare
- Law and Order
- Environment
- Homeland Security
- Education
- Taxation
- Social Welfare

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. alliances | a. The beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something. |
| 2. sworn in | b. Admitted to a particular office or position by asking them to take a formal oath (promise). |
| 3. unprecedented | c. The formal admission of someone to office (especially as president). |
| 4. inauguration | d. A union formed between countries or organizations to benefit everyone. |
| 5. incident | e. Participate or become involved in. |
| 6. reputation | f. Never done or known before. |
| 7. engage | g. An event or occurrence. |

Paragraph 2

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|------------------|---|
| 8. vowing | h. Achieved or completed successfully. |
| 9. parting | i. A person that takes over from another. |
| 10. successor | j. An underlying basis or principle. |
| 11. accomplished | k. Solemnly promising to do a specified thing. |
| 12. privilege | l. The action of leaving. |
| 13. foundation | m. Strikingly large or obvious. |
| 14. spectacular | n. Something thought of as a rare opportunity and bringing particular pleasure. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210122-joe-biden.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Joe Biden promised to re-establish global alliances in his second speech. **T / F**
- b. There were nearly 20,000 National Guard troops at the inauguration. **T / F**
- c. Joe Biden said he would rejoin the Paris climate accord. **T / F**
- d. Joe Biden said America had yet to be tested. **T / F**
- e. Donald Trump told people to have a good life. **T / F**
- f. Donald Trump did not attend Joe Biden's inauguration. **T / F**
- g. Donald Trump said he would continue to fight for people. **T / F**
- h. Donald Trump thinks Biden's administration will be successful. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. promised | a. impressive |
| 2. amid | b. drama |
| 3. unprecedented | c. good name |
| 4. incident | d. farewell |
| 5. reputation | e. surrounded by |
| 6. parting words | f. achieved |
| 7. tradition | g. vowed |
| 8. accomplished | h. basis |
| 9. foundation | i. unheard of |
| 10. spectacular | j. custom |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. amid tight | a. words |
| 2. the inauguration took place without | b. tradition |
| 3. change the direction of America's | c. world once again |
| 4. restoring America's reputation | d. spectacular |
| 5. engage with the | e. incident |
| 6. His parting | f. and privilege |
| 7. Mr Trump broke with | g. security |
| 8. We've accomplished | h. overseas |
| 9. It's been a great honour | i. so much |
| 10. do something really | j. foreign policy |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210122-joe-biden.html>

1. What did Joe Biden say he would re-establish?
2. How many National Guard troops were in Washington?
3. How many executive orders does the article say Biden will make?
4. What does Joe Biden want to restore?
5. Who did Joe Biden say he would engage with?
6. What did Donald Trump vow he would do?
7. What did Donald Trump break with?
8. What did Donald Trump say he'd accomplished?
9. What did Mr Trump say being president was besides an honour?
10. What did Donald Trump say the new administration could do?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210122-joe-biden.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'global' and 'alliance'.

global	alliance
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• tight• without• several• rejoin• stronger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• left• soon• farewell• much• fight• really
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JOE BIDEN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'global'?
3. What do you know about Joe Biden?
4. What do you think of Joe Biden?
5. What kind of President will Joe Biden be?
6. What are the most important things Biden needs to do?
7. How important are global alliances?
8. What news of the inauguration did you see?
9. Should the USA re-join the Paris climate accord?
10. What is the USA's reputation around the world?

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JOE BIDEN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'alliance'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What advice do you have for Joe Biden?
15. What do you think of Donald Trump?
16. How did Donald Trump change America?
17. What advice do you have for Donald Trump?
18. What do you think Donald Trump will do for the rest of this year?
19. What are Donald Trump's biggest accomplishments?
20. What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump?