



# American Citizenship

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# Eligibility for Citizenship

## A. Checklist

Before you can become an American citizen,  
you need to find out if you are eligible.

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am a lawful permanent resident of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am at least 18 years old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have had continuous residence in the U.S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I currently have physical presence in the U.S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have been living within jurisdiction of a USCIS office based on my address for some time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have good moral character.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have knowledge of English and U.S. civics and history.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have attachment to the U.S. constitution.

## B. Results

Did you answer YES to all eight questions?

### Yes:

You are eligible for citizenship! Fill out Form N-400  
and send it to the USCIS with the appropriate fee.

### No:

You may be eligible in the future.

### Note:

If you have a parent who is a U.S. citizen, you may also  
be eligible without meeting the above requirements.

# American Civics

## A. The U.S.

Before you can become an American citizen, you will need to learn a lot of history and information about the United States. Discuss the following questions in small groups to find out what you already know. Share your knowledge with your classmates.

1. When is Independence Day?
2. Name three national American holidays.
3. Name three U.S. territories.
4. What ocean is on the East Coast of the U.S.?
5. What year did the U.S. become an independent country?
6. Who is the Father of the Country?
7. What are the two main political parties in the U.S.?
8. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
9. What month is the U.S. President elected?
10. What is the highest court in the U.S.?
11. What are the two longest rivers in the United States?
12. What are the first three words of the Constitution?
13. Who signs bills to become laws?
14. Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.
15. How old do Americans have to be to vote?
16. What was Susan B. Anthony's role in U.S. history?
17. What date are federal income tax forms due?
18. Name three of the original 13 states.
19. What is the name of the national anthem?
20. What is the symbolism of the shapes on the U.S. flag?

## B. My State

Here are four more questions about your own state. Do some research to find the answers.

1. Who are my state's Senators?
2. Who is one Representative of my state?
3. Who is my state's Governor?
4. What is the capital of the state I live in?

# Vocabulary

## A. Preview

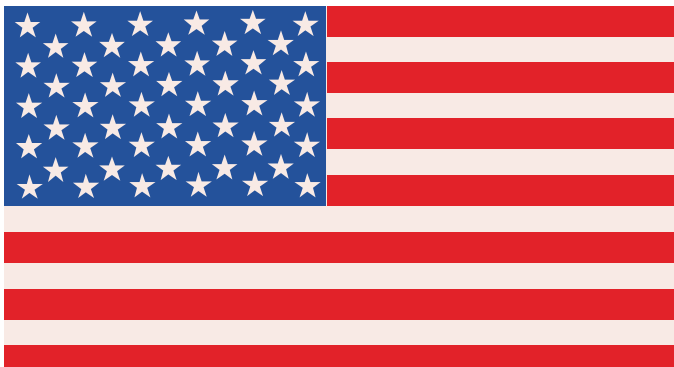
Word	Definition
American Indians	the first peoples in the U.S.
Bill of Rights	the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution
capital	the most important city in a state, where the state government is located
citizen	a person who lives legally in a country
civics	the study of rights and duties of citizens
Civil War	a war between members or groups from the same country
Congress	the legislative branch of the U.S. government (House & Senate)
elect	to choose a person to become a political leader
first	the one that comes at the beginning
flag	a piece of material with a nation's official symbol(s) and/or color
Father of our Country	the first leader (George Washington)
federal	related to the government of the whole country
freedom of speech	the right to express one's thoughts and beliefs
Presidents' Day	a national holiday on the third Monday in February that honors George Washington and all past presidents
Labor Day	a national holiday on the first Monday in September that honors laborers
month	one of 12 calendar divisions in a year (e.g., January)
north	a compass point (Canada is north of the U.S.)
Senator	a person who is elected to represent a state in the Senate, helps to pass laws and votes on decisions
state	a division in a nation that has its own system of government
Washington, D.C.	the capital of the United States
White House	the official residence and office of the U.S. President

## Vocabulary cont.

### B. Practice

Choose the correct word or expression from the list on page 4 to complete the following sentences. Then read the sentences out loud with your class.

1. The colors of the American \_\_\_\_\_ are red, white, and blue.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ is George Washington.
3. The U.S. President lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The capital of the U.S. is \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. In Congress, there are 100 \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. Presidents' Day is in the \_\_\_\_\_ of February.
7. What is the Bill of \_\_\_\_\_ ?
8. Memorial Day is a \_\_\_\_\_ holiday.
9. Canada is \_\_\_\_\_ of the U.S. border.
10. Americans will \_\_\_\_\_ a new President in November.
11. The first peoples of America are called \_\_\_\_\_ .
12. Washington, D.C., is not a \_\_\_\_\_ .



# The Land of Opportunity

## A. Reading

### STATES

On March 1, 1781, the Articles of Confederation established the United States of America with the first 13 states.

#### The First 13 States

- Delaware
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Georgia
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- South Carolina
- New Hampshire
- Virginia
- New York
- North Carolina
- Rhode Island

### TERRITORIES

The United States has five partially self-governing territories. People in these territories are either citizens or nationals (American Samoa). These citizens and nationals cannot vote in general elections. The citizens of territories can vote in primary elections.

#### The 5 U.S. Territories

- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Guam

### BORDERS

The U.S. borders Canada to the north and Mexico to the south.

The Treaty of Paris determined the border between the U.S. and Canada in 1783. It is about 5,000 miles long. There are 13 states that border with Canada.

There are four states that border with Mexico. This border has been in place since the Mexican-American War and the Gadsden Purchase in 1853.

#### The 13 States That Border Canada

- Alaska
- Washington
- Idaho
- Montana
- North Dakota
- Minnesota
- Michigan
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- Vermont
- New Hampshire
- Maine

#### The 4 States That Border Mexico

- California
- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Texas

## The Land of Opportunity cont.

### B. Mapping Challenge

Review ESL Library's Map of the U.S. and try to fill in the states and state capitals. Can you pronounce all of the state and capital names properly?

### C. Sorting

Work with a partner or in small groups to categorize the American words. Add any other American words that you can think of.

American Symbols	Holidays & Events	Famous Americans	American Geography

#### Word List:

- the American Revolution
- General Ulysses S. Grant
- the bald eagle
- stars and stripes
- Susan B. Anthony
- the national flag
- Barack Obama
- the Atlantic Ocean
- the Grand Canyon
- the Mississippi River
- Veterans Day
- George Washington
- Washington, D.C.
- Independence Day
- Hawaii
- Benjamin Franklin
- the War of 1812
- the White House
- the Gulf War
- Abraham Lincoln
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- New York City
- the Statue of Liberty
- the Liberty Bell
- Flag Day
- the Declaration of Independence

## The Land of Opportunity cont.

### D. Matching

For the civics and history part of the test, you must know information about the U.S. government and about U.S. history. You will be asked up to ten questions, and you must answer six correctly to pass the test.

This portion of the naturalization test is an oral test and only some answers are acceptable. Use the official 100 study questions provided by the USCIS to prepare. Test your knowledge with this matching exercise.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. The supreme law of the land is the                  | a) called a "representative democracy."                           |
| _____ 2. The Declaration of Independence declared            | b) the executive branch of the government.                        |
| _____ 3. The first 10 amendments are known as                | c) <i>change or addition</i> .                                    |
| _____ 4. The three rights in the Declaration of Independence | d) U.S. Constitution.   |
| _____ 5. The economic system of the U.S.                     | e) is capitalism.   |
| _____ 6. The President is in charge of                       | f) Senators in Congress.  |
| _____ 7. The American system of democracy is                 | g) that the U.S. was free from Britain.                           |
| _____ 8. There are 100 U.S.                                  | h) to practice any religion.                                      |
| _____ 9. The first three words of the Constitution are       | i) 435 voting members.  |
| _____ 10. The House of Representatives has                   | j) how many Representatives it has.                               |
| _____ 11. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right         | k) the Bill of Rights.  |
| _____ 12. Other words for amendment are                      | l) everybody must follow the laws.                                |
| _____ 13. Every state has the same                           | m) every four years.  |
| _____ 14. A state's population determines                    | n) <i>We the People</i> .   |
| _____ 15. A President is elected                             | o) number of Senators.  |
| _____ 16. The two parts of Congress are the Senate and       | p) the House of Representatives.                                  |
| _____ 17. The "rule of law" means that                       | q) tax forms are due.   |
| _____ 18. April 15 is the day that                           | r) 18 years old to vote.  |
| _____ 19. American citizens have to be                       | s) a native-born American.  |
| _____ 20. To run for President, a person must be             | t) are the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. |



## The Land of Opportunity cont.

### E. American Holidays

Fill in the blanks about these American holidays.  
Do some research if you don't know the answers.

1. Flag Day is on \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Memorial Day is in the month of \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Presidents' Day is the third \_\_\_\_\_ of February.
4. In the U.S., Thanksgiving takes place on the fourth Thursday of \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ is a national holiday in October.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Day is on the first Monday of September.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Day is also called the Fourth of July.

### F. Identifying Americans

Try to identify the correct American from the list below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ refused to give up her seat on a bus.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first President of the U.S.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first African American President of the U.S.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was an actor before he became the U.S. President in 1981.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ led the Union Army in the American Civil War.
7. One of the Founding Fathers, \_\_\_\_\_, is on the 100-dollar bill.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ helped American women earn the right to vote.

**Word List:**

- |                     |                  |                    |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Ulysses S. Grant  | • Amelia Earhart | • Susan B. Anthony | • Rosa Parks        |
| • George Washington | • Barack Obama   | • Ronald Reagan    | • Benjamin Franklin |

# The U.S. Naturalization Interview

## A. Reading

1. Are you eligible to become a U.S. citizen? Great! The first thing to do is to complete, sign, and submit Form N-400 to the USCIS\* with the appropriate fee. You will receive a notice of their receipt in the mail followed by a notice with an interview date. Make sure the government has your correct address. Prepare for the civics and English tests before your date.
2. Do not miss your interview date. If you miss your appointment, they will close your case. If you have to change your interview date, you can write to the office. However, your naturalization process may take several more months if you can't attend your interview on the date provided.
3. Prepare the documents that you need to bring. You will need your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card), your passport (expired or not), your state identification card, and your re-entry permits. You should also bring any other documentation listed in the notice, including two additional passport photos.
4. Make sure you are familiar with the location of the USCIS office before your interview date. Arrive about 15 minutes before your interview. Dress in business casual attire (no jeans or T-shirts). When you arrive, an officer will place you under oath. That means that you must tell the truth throughout the interview.
5. You will be tested on your English skills and your knowledge of civics. The English test is divided into three parts: reading, writing, and speaking. The reading test requires you to read one sentence out loud. The writing test requires you to write one sentence. The speaking test requires you to answer questions about yourself from Form N-400. The USCIS officer will ask you questions based on your completed form. Make sure you understand all of the vocabulary on the form.
6. The civics test requires you to have knowledge of U.S. history, geography, and government systems. There are 100 possible questions, but you only have to answer the ten questions that they ask you. To pass this part of the test, you must answer six of the ten questions correctly. The questions and answers are oral, not written.
7. You will receive your results immediately after the interview. If you fail any of the tests or fail to bring in the appropriate documents, you will have to go back for a second interview. If you fail twice, your naturalization will be declined. If you want to try again, you will need to file for an appeal.
8. If you pass the tests and bring in the correct documentation, your citizenship will be granted. You may be able to take your Oath of Allegiance on the same day. If same-day service is not available, you will receive a notice in the mail about when to attend your Oath ceremony.

**\*Note:**

USCIS stands for United States  
Citizenship and Immigration Services.

## The U.S. Naturalization Interview cont.

### B. Timeline

Place the following in the correct order (1–8).

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will arrive properly dressed about 15 minutes before my interview time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will receive a notice in the mail with my naturalization interview date.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will take the Oath of Allegiance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will gather the required documentation that is listed in my notice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be told that I passed the test and am able to become a U.S. citizen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will take an English test and a civics test.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be declared a U.S. citizen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will make sure that the U.S. government has my correct mailing address.

### Things I Need to Do Before My Test Day

Use this space to make notes for yourself.

Writing things down in your own words will help you remember.

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## The U.S. Naturalization Interview cont.

### C. The Oath of Allegiance

You will recite the oath with help from an official at the ceremony, but it is a good idea to learn the words beforehand.

Listen to a reading of the oath on ESL Library's YouTube channel. Fill in the blanks to complete the oath. Look up any words that you don't understand. Then practice the oath out loud as a class.

**Word List:**

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| • allegiance   | • declare   |
| • Constitution | • evasion   |
| • foreign      | • bear arms |
| • citizen      | • civilian  |

#### The Oath of Allegiance

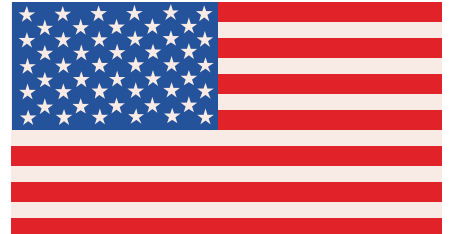
I hereby \_\_\_\_\_, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely  
1.  
renounce and abjure all \_\_\_\_\_ and fidelity to any  
2.  
foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which  
I have heretofore been a subject or \_\_\_\_\_;  
3.  
that I will support and defend the \_\_\_\_\_  
4.  
and laws of the United States of America against all enemies,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and domestic;  
5.  
that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;  
that I will \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf  
6.  
of the United States when required by the law;  
that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed  
Forces of the United States when required by the law;  
that I will perform work of national importance under  
\_\_\_\_\_ direction when required by the law;  
7.  
and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation  
or purpose of \_\_\_\_\_;  
8.  
so help me God.

## The U.S. Naturalization Interview cont.

### D. The National Anthem

At your citizenship ceremony, you will sing the national anthem for the first time as a U.S. citizen. Make sure that you know the words.

Listen to America's national anthem on ESL Library's YouTube channel. Fill in the blanks to complete the lyrics. Listen again to check your work. Then practice singing.



#### The Star-Spangled Banner

O! say can you see, by the \_\_\_\_\_ early light,  
1.  
What so proudly we \_\_\_\_\_ at the twilight's last \_\_\_\_\_,  
2. 3.  
Whose broad stripes and \_\_\_\_\_ through the perilous fight,  
4.  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so \_\_\_\_\_ streaming?  
5.  
And the \_\_\_\_\_ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
6.  
Gave proof through the night that our \_\_\_\_\_ was still there;  
7.  
O! say does that \_\_\_\_\_ banner yet wave,  
8.  
O'er the land of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the home of the \_\_\_\_\_?  
9. 10.

#### Word List:

- hailed
- gallantly
- star-spangled
- free
- gleaming
- bright stars
- rockets'
- brave
- flag
- dawn's

# Interview Practice

## A. Personal Information

Walk around the classroom and ask your classmates questions related to your N-400. These are the questions the USCIS official will ask you about in the speaking section of the English test.

#	Ask a question about your classmate's...	Question
1	name	
2	marital status and history	
3	native country	
4	information about employment	
5	languages	
6	age	
7	resident status	
8	date of birth	
9	mailing address	
10	residence for the last five years	
11	information about parents	
12	information about children	
13	information about schools attended	
14	trips taken outside of the U.S.	

## Interview Practice cont.

### B. Have You Ever...?

Now walk around the classroom and ask your classmates some yes/no questions related to your N-400. Look up any vocabulary you are unfamiliar with.

1. Have you ever been jailed?
2. Have you ever been arrested?
3. Have you ever gambled illegally?
4. Have you ever been a habitual drunkard?
5. Have you ever failed to support dependents?
6. Have you ever sold a weapon?
7. Have you ever been a member of a military/police unit?
8. Have you ever been involved in overthrowing the government?
9. Have you ever killed anyone?
10. Have you ever been involved with a terrorist group?
11. Have you ever been confined to a mental institution?
12. Have you ever owed overdue taxes?
13. Have you ever registered to vote?
14. Have you ever sold illegal drugs?
15. Have you ever been deported?