

Snap Shot | Answer key

2 The 2024 presidential elections

2 b

The electoral campaign quiz

Lead-in

1. The two main parties are the **Republicans and Democrats**. Because of the electoral system, it is difficult for independent candidates or smaller parties (Green Party) to gain enough votes.
2. The **elephant** stands for the **Republican Party**, also called GOP (Grand Old Party), the **donkey** is the icon of the **Democrats**. The symbols were popularized by cartoonist Thomas Nast around 1875. At that time, they resembled real beasts. In modern times, they are icons with the colours of the American flag.
3. Presidential elections take place every **four years** on the first Tuesday after November 1. Senators serve six years. One third stands for elections every two years. Representatives are elected for two years.
4. A president can be re-elected once, which makes **two terms** (eight years) in office. This should prevent the president from becoming too powerful (like a monarch). Only one president was re-elected a second time, Franklin D. Roosevelt, due to the Second World War. He was president from 1933 to 1945 and died in office. He was a Democrat and highly popular.
5. **Congress** consists of two houses (Representatives and Senate) and is the parliament of the US.
6. Apart from Barack Obama, all the presidents so far have been White men. There has never been a **female** or a **Native American** president. In 2016, Hillary Clinton ran against Trump and won the popular vote. Trump, however, had a majority in the electoral council. At present, the vice president is Kamala Harris, who has African American and Indian ancestors. A **first-generation immigrant** cannot become president because you have to be born in the US to be allowed to run for presidency.
7. He could not become president **because he was not born in the USA** though he is quite popular and was governor of California.

2 c

Which American presidents do you know / have you heard of?

Speaking

George Washington¹ (1789–1797): first president of the US; the US capital city is named after him

Abraham Lincoln² (1861–1865): first Republican president; ended slavery with the Emancipation Proclamation (1863), which led to the Civil war; was assassinated by a fanatic White person from the South


Franklin Delano Roosevelt³ (1933–1945): Democrat; only president to be re-elected twice because of World War II; his reforms (New Deal) help people overcome the economic crisis of the 1930s

John F. Kennedy⁴ (1961–1963): Democrat; was very popular; promoted the US space programme; assassinated in 1963 in Dallas, Texas

Barack Obama⁵ (2009–2017): Democrat; first African American president, was very popular; worked for a reform of health care

Donald Trump⁶ (2017–2021): Republican, was controversial; did not believe he lost his re-election (“stolen elections”); he motivated his supporters to attack the Capitol on January 6th, 2021; runs again in 2024

2 e **Learning how the US presidential elections work**
Listening **Requirements:** born in the US¹; at least 35²; long-term residents (14 years)³
Step 1: caucuses⁴; primaries⁵
Step 2: national convention⁶; vice-president⁷
Step 3: Electoral College⁸; 538⁹; 270¹⁰
Inauguration: January 20th (or January 21st if January 20th falls on a Sunday)¹¹

2 f **Learning how the Electoral College works** 
Reading

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | B | A | H | E | G |

not used: D, I

2 i **Practising prepositions and particles**
Speaking in¹, from², with³, in / for⁴, for⁵, of⁶, for⁷, with⁸, by⁹, of¹⁰, on / at¹¹, for¹², since¹³, up¹⁴, in¹⁵,
with¹⁶, in / for¹⁷, into¹⁸