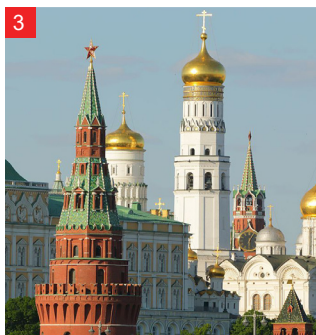


Vocabulary: politics and elections

Lead-in

1 Discuss the questions with your partner.

1. In which cities would you find the buildings in the pictures 1 – 4 ?
2. What are the names of the buildings, and which leaders are associated with each?
3. How is the leader of your country chosen?
4. Do you think the system is fair? Why or why not?
5. Do you ever vote?



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Vocabulary

1 Match items from the left and right to make phrases related to choosing leaders.

ballot	a leader
elect	ballot
elected	candidate
turn	for a candidate
political	paper/box
polling	party
presidential	representative
secret	rigging
vote	station
vote	out

2 Complete the sentences with collocations from Exercise 1 and discuss the questions with your partner.

1. What kind of places are often used as _____ stations?
2. Is there usually a big _____ in elections in your country?
3. How many different _____ are there in your country? What are the main differences between them?
4. Why is there a secret _____? What would happen if it were not secret?
5. Do you think elections in your country are fair, or do you think there is vote _____?

Word families

1 Complete the table with the correct forms of the words.

Noun (people)	Noun (other)	Verb	Adjective
		vote	-
	election		-
		-	political
		represent	

Discussion

1 Complete the words in the sentences and then discuss the statements in small groups.

1. All secondary school students should be taught about pol _____
2. The government in my country does / doesn't rep _____ the views of most people.
3. Vot _____ should be made compulsory, and anyone who doesn't vote should be punished.
4. A proportional rep _____ system is the fairest.
5. Pol _____ who do not carry out their promises should face penalties.

Pre-reading: presidents and parties

Discussion

1 Work in small groups. Which US presidents are shown in the pictures? Match the pictures, the names, the dates, and the events that you associate with each.



George W Bush
Bill Clinton
John F Kennedy
Richard Nixon
Barack Obama
Ronald Reagan

1961 – 1963
1969 – 1974
1981 – 1989
1993 – 2001
2001 – 2009
2009 – 2016

end of the Cold War
health care reform
invasion of Iraq and 9/11
missiles in Cuba; assassination
Lewinsky scandal; impeachment
Vietnam war; Watergate

Which of these presidents are well-known in your country?

What do people think of them? Are any of them admired or disliked?

If you could choose to have dinner with one of them, which one would you choose?

Pre-reading

1 Discuss with your partner.

Which of the following political issues are important in your country?

What is the difference between the political parties in your country regarding these?

taxation health care
minimum wage immigration
social welfare gun control
foreign policy the environment
same-sex marriage

The two main US political parties are the **Republicans** and the **Democrats**.

What do you know about their beliefs on each of these issues?

Reading comprehension

1 Work in pairs. One of you read the text on the Republicans, the other read the text on the Democrats. When you have finished, work together to complete the task below.

Tick the policies that each party generally supports.

D = Democrats; R = Republicans

	D	R
in favour of		
the death penalty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a minimum wage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
higher taxes for the rich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
private health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
strict immigration control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
against		
abortion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
gun control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
gay marriage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reading: Democrat and Republican

Who are the Democrats?

The Democratic Party is the largest political party in the United States and was founded in the early nineteenth century.

Since the mid-twentieth century, the Democrats have been increasingly associated with progressive policies. It was a Democratic president, Franklin D Roosevelt, who launched the New Deal in the 1930s, spending government money on public works projects to boost the economy and create employment.

In the 1960s, social programmes and further public works projects were introduced under J F Kennedy. His successor, Lyndon B Johnson, introduced the historic Civil Rights Act in 1964, ending racial segregation and outlawing racial discrimination.

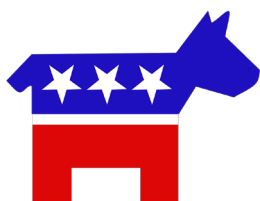
More recently, a Democratic president, Barack Obama, has sought to make health care more affordable through stricter regulation of private health care providers and by expanding subsidised health care.

Today's Democratic Party promotes social and economic equality, and is in favour of social welfare. Democrats believe in progressive taxation — the rich should pay more — and a minimum wage for those on low incomes.

Democrats are also generally more supportive of progressive social policies such as same-sex (gay) marriage and take a more relaxed view on immigration and defence.

The Democrats draw much of their support from the more economically developed east and west coasts, as well as from the black and Hispanic communities, and from women.

The mascot of the Democratic Party is the donkey.



Who are the Republicans?

The origins of the Republican Party lie in the mid-nineteenth century struggle against slavery, and the first Republican president was the Civil War leader Abraham Lincoln.

Over the years, the party has become identified as the more conservative of the two main parties. In the early twentieth century it came to be seen as the party of business.

In the 1960s, when the Democrats introduced the Civil Rights Act, outlawing racial discrimination, many whites in the South, who had traditionally supported the Democrats, joined the Republicans, who had opposed the Act.

The modern Republican Party (often referred to as the Grand Old Party or the GOP) is defined by social conservatism and a belief in free-market economics. The party favours low taxation for all, including the wealthy, and believes wages should be set by the market rather than controlled by law.

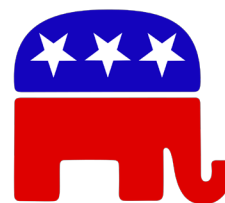
Republicans believe health care should remain private and have opposed President Obama's moves to make the health care system more affordable.

The party is strong in the religious southern states and is opposed to abortion and the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Tough on immigration and supportive of defence spending, Republicans also oppose increased gun control and moves to abolish the death penalty.

The Republicans draw much of their support from the less economically advanced areas such as the rural south and centre of the country, and enjoy less support from women.

The Republican Party mascot is the elephant.



Post-reading: vocabulary and quotes

Vocabulary

1 Find words in bold type in the two texts with the following meanings.

1. against change
2. animal or object that represents an organization
3. building projects that the government pays for
4. keeping different races of people apart
5. legal punishment where a criminal is killed
6. medical operation to end a pregnancy
7. modern and encouraging change
8. partly paid for by the government in order to reduce the cost to the consumer
9. strong and determined
10. system where people are owned by others as property
11. treating a person or group of people differently from the others

2 Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the exercise above.

1. _____ is appropriate for murderers.
2. The government should _____ public transport to keep fares low.
3. We need to get _____ on immigration.
4. _____ still exists in some parts of the world.
5. There is no racial _____ in my country.

Work in small groups and discuss the statements with. Which ones do you agree with?

Who said that?

1 Who said the quotes below, Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump? Decide with your partner.



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Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.

Every moment wasted looking back, keeps us from moving forward.

The point is, you can never be too greedy.

I have always believed that women are not victims.

My IQ is one of the highest — and you all know it!

I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas.

I have so many fabulous friends who happen to be gay, but I am a traditionalist.

He spoke for 70 odd minutes — and I do mean odd — and he offered zero solutions.

I have great respect for women. I was the one that really broke the glass ceiling.

The beauty of me is that I'm very rich.

Answers

Lead-in

1. The Great Hall of the People. Beijing.
Associated with the government of the People's Republic of China.
2. Number 10 Downing Street. London.
Official residence of the Prime Minister of the UK.
3. The Kremlin. Moscow. President of the Russian Federation.
4. The White House. Washington DC.
Residence of the President of the United States.

ballot	paper / box
elect	a leader
elected	representative
turn	out
political	party
polling	station
presidential	candidate
secret	ballot
vote	rigging
vote	for a candidate

1. polling stations
2. turnout
3. political parties
4. ballot
5. rigging

Word families

Noun (people)	Noun (other)	Verb	Adjective
voter	voting	vote	-
elector electorate	election	elect	-
politician	politics	-	political
representative	representation	represent	representative

Who said that?

Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs. **Clinton**

Every moment wasted looking back, keeps us from moving forward. **Clinton**

The point is, you can never be too greedy. **Trump**

I have always believed that women are not victims. **Clinton**

My IQ is one of the highest — and you all know it! **Trump**

I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas. **Clinton**

I have so many fabulous friends who happen to be gay, but I am a traditionalist. **Trump**

He spoke for 70 odd minutes — and I do mean odd — and he offered zero solutions. **Clinton**

I have great respect for women. I was the one that really broke the glass ceiling. **Trump**

The beauty of me is that I'm very rich. **Trump**

Discussion

1. politics
2. represent
3. Voting
4. representation
5. Politicians

George W Bush	2001 - 2009	invasion of Iraq and 9/11
Bill Clinton	1993 - 2001	Lewinsky scandal; impeachment
John F Kennedy	1961 -1963	missiles in Cuba; assassination
Richard Nixon	1969 -1974	Vietnam war; Watergate
Barrack Obama	2009 - 2016	health care reform
Ronald Reagan	1981 -1989	end of the Cold War

Reading comprehension

in favour of

the death penalty **R**

a minimum wage **D**

higher taxes for the rich **D**

private health care **R**

strict immigration control **R**

against

abortion **R**

gun control **R**

gay marriage **R**

Vocabulary

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. conservative | 1. Capital punishment is appropriate for murderers. |
| 2. mascot | 2. The government should subsidize public transport to keep fares low. |
| 3. public works | 3. We need to get tough on immigration. |
| 4. segregation | 4. Slavery still exists in some parts of the world. |
| 5. capital punishment | 5. There is no racial discrimination / segregation in my country. |
| 6. abortion | |
| 7. progressive | |
| 8. subsidized | |
| 9. tough | |
| 10. slavery | |
| 11. discrimination | |

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Who said that?

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