# **English for the Interview**



citic enship interview focused on English language skills:

Reading, Writing, Speaking & Understanding



## Our handbook works best with our videos. Scan the QR code or visit

https://tinyurl.com/LVCAInterview to watch our playlist.





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Literacy 'Integration' articles article

For more information: www.literacyforall.org

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### Citizenship Interview: Tests of English Language Skills



Spe King and Undersianding



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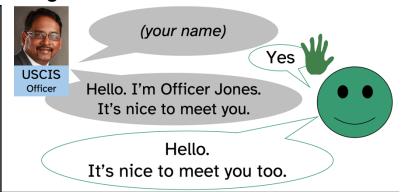


#### Set 1 **Beginning of the Interview**

### **Greeting:**

The officer will come to the waiting room and call your name.

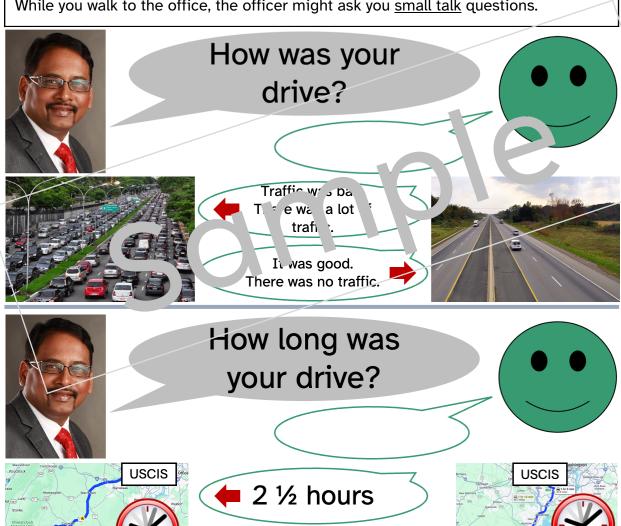
Raise your hand as you say, "Yes." Stand up and go to the officer.



#### Walk to the Office:

Charlottesville

While you walk to the office, the officer might ask you small talk questions.



hours or minutes

Your Home



## Where did you drive from today?



Charlottesville

Sterling

Fredericksburg

Newport News





## How is the weather?









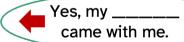




## Did anyone come with you today?







No, I came by myself.





## Set 2 **Beginning of the Interview**

## Promise to tell the truth:

The officer will tell you to stand and raise your right hand. Then you will promise to tell the truth. The officer might ask what you promised.



Please stand and raise your right hand.

Do you swear or affirm that the statements you make today will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Yes, I do.

What did you promise?

To tell the truth.

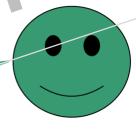


The officer will ask for your documents (passport, green card, interview notice etc.) and might ask you some extra questions to check your English.



Why are you here 'or ay':

citizenship interview.





Why do you want to be a US citizen?









## Set 3 **Questions about You**

The officer will ask **questions about you** from parts 1-8 of your application form. **Keywords:** become a legal permanent resident = get a green card eligible or basis of eligibility = reason you are allowed to become a citizen



How did you become a legal permanent resident?





I was a refugee.

I have an SIV.

I was sponsored by a family member.



When did you become a legal permanent resident?



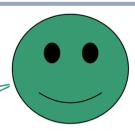
In 20\_\_



\_\_\_ years ago



What is your basis of eligibility?



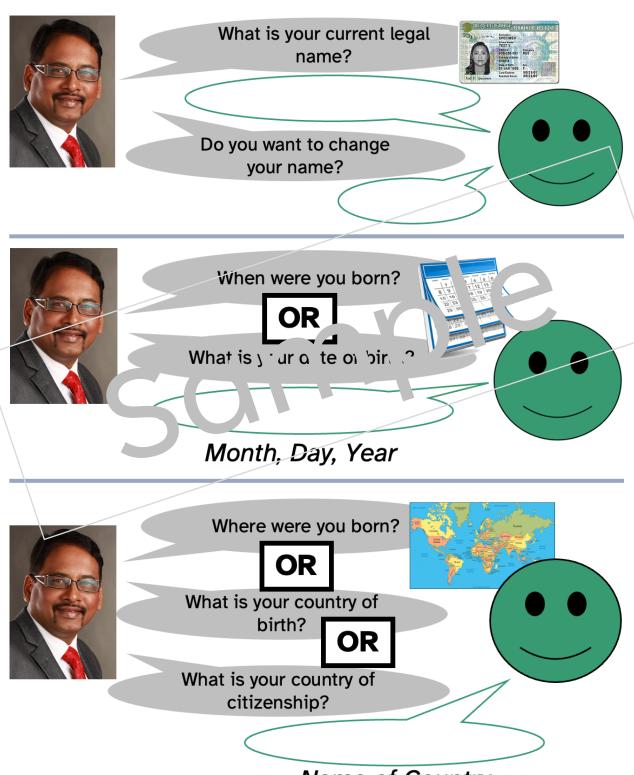


I have had my green card for 5 years.

I am applying as the spouse of a U.S. citizen



Set 4 **Questions about You** 

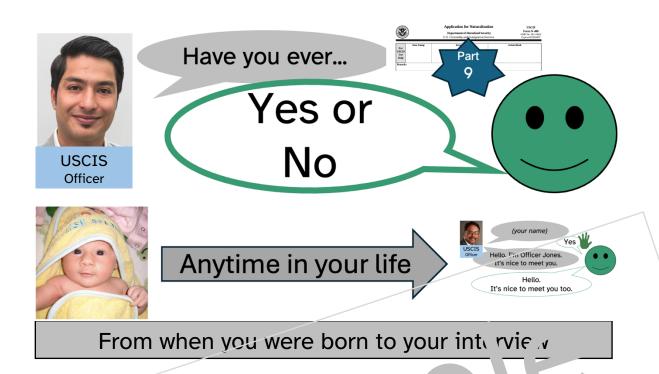


Name of Country

## Speaking & Understanding Test: Yes or No Questions

The officer will ask you some or all of the **Yes or No questions** from Part 9 of your citizenship application. You will answer "Yes" or "No."

Many of the Yes or No questions start with "Have you ever..." That means anytime in your life – from when you were born until the day of your interview. The officer should NOT ask you, "What does that word mean?" for any of the "Have you ever..." questions.



If you do not inderstan a quistic, you can show our English by asking the officer a crestion.

#### Questions you ask the officer:

- Can you say that slower?
- Can you repeat the question?
- Can you explain the question?
- Can you say it a different way

## Set 1 Yes or No Questions

#### **Question 31:**

Yes or No?

Do you support the **Constitution** and **form of government of the United States**?

#### Key words:

<u>Constitution</u> – it sets up the government and how our government works

form of government of the <u>U.S.</u> – democracy, freedom and voting

#### What does it mean?

Do you like having a government with freedom and voting?



#### Question 32:

Yes or No?

Do you under the full **Oath of Allegiance** to the United States?

#### Key words:

Oath of Allegiance - promise to be loyal

#### What does it mean?

Do you know that the Oath of Allegiance is a promise to be loyal to the United States?



#### **Question 33:**

Are you **unable** to take the **Oath of Allegiance** because of a **physical or developmental disability or mental impairment**?

Yes or No?

#### Key words:

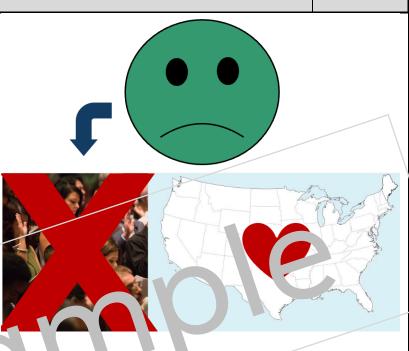
<u>unable</u> – cannot do something

Oath of Allegiance – promise to be loyal

physical or developmental disability or mental impairment? – very big problem with your body or mind

#### What does it mean?

Do you have a very big problem with your body or mind so you cannot promise to be loyal to the U.S.?



## Are you willing to take the Oath of Allegiance? Yes or No?

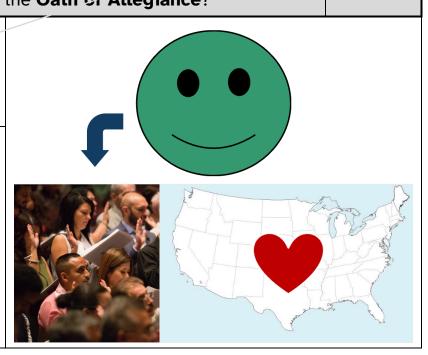
#### Key words:

are you willing - Will you?

Oath of Allegiance – promise to be loyal

#### What does it mean?

If you pass your interview, will you promise to be loyal and become a U.S. citizen?



Set 2
Yes or No Questions

#### **Question 35:**

Yes or No?

<u>If the law requires it</u>, are you willing to <u>bear arms</u> on behalf of the United States?

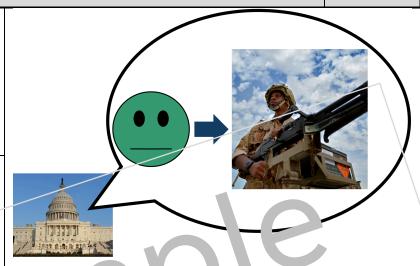
#### Key words:

<u>if the law requires it</u> – if the government says you have to

bear arms – join the U.S. army to fight with a gun

#### What does it mean?

If there is a really big war and the government says you have to join the army to fight with a gun, will you do it?



#### Question 6:

Yes or No?

If the law are , u willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. anned forces?

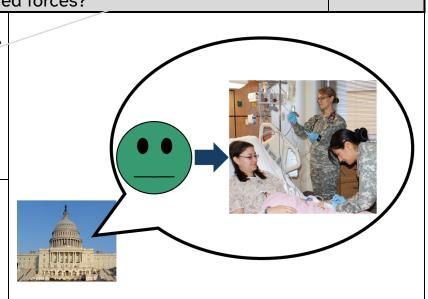
#### Key words:

if the law requires it - if the government says you have to

<u>perform noncombatant</u> <u>services</u> – help the army in ways that are NOT fighting

#### What does it mean?

If there is a really big war and the government says you have to help the army in ways that are NOT fighting, will you do it?



#### **Question 37:**

Yes or No?

<u>If the law requires it</u>, are you willing to <u>perform work of</u> <u>national importance under civilian direction?</u>

#### Key words:

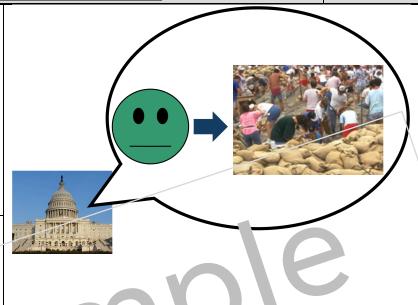
<u>if the law requires it</u> – if the government says you have to

<u>perform work of national</u> <u>importance</u> – help the country in an emergency

<u>under civilian direction</u> – NOT in the army

#### What does it mean?

If the government says you have to help the country in an emergency, not in the army, will you do it?



To check your English, he "er might ask you, "What is the Oath of Allegiance?"



USCIS Officer Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance?

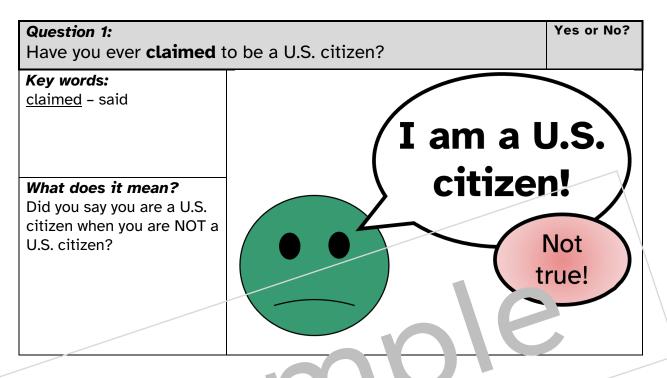
What is the Oath of Allegiance?

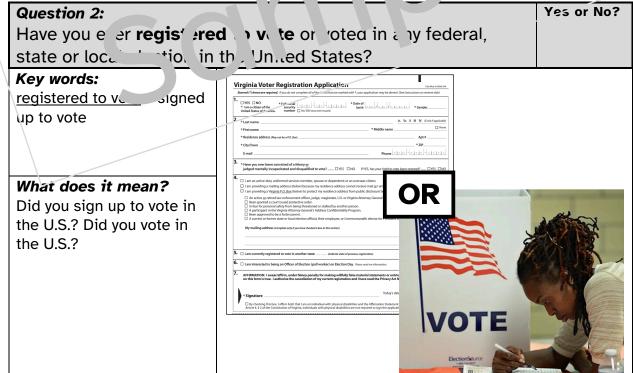
Yes

promise to be loyal to the United States



Set 3
Yes or No Questions





#### **Question 3:**

Do you currently **owe** any **overdue** Federal, state or local taxes in the United States?

#### Key words:

owe - need to pay

overdue - late

#### What does it mean?

Did you NOT pay your taxes in April and now you need to pay taxes that are late?



#### Question 4:

Since you be ame a lawful parn anena resident, have you called yourself a not resident on a Federal, state or local tax return or decided No T to file a tax return because you considered yourself to be a nonresident?

#### Key words:

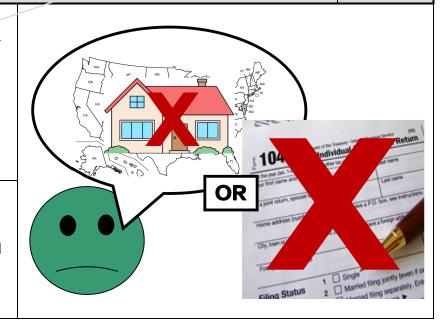
<u>lawful permanent resident</u> - have a green card

<u>nonresident</u> – someone who does not live here

not file a tax return – did not send in your tax form

#### What does it mean?

After you got your green card, did you say you do not live in the U.S.? Or did you not send in your tax form?



Yes or No?

Yes or No?

Question 5a:

Yes or No?

Yes or No?

Have you ever been a member of any **Communist or totalitarian party** anywhere in the world?

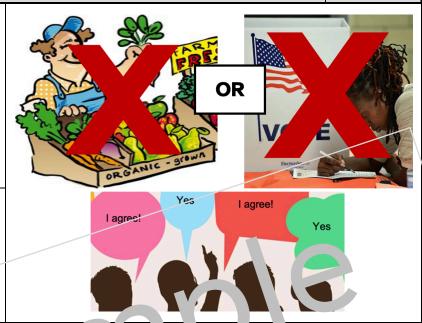
#### Key words:

<u>Communist party</u> – group that wants the government to own all the businesses

<u>Totalitarian party</u> – group that wants the government to have total power and no voting

#### What does it mean?

Were you in a group that wants the government to own all the businesses? OR a group that wants the government to have total power and no voting?



#### Question 5b:

Have you ever advo ateu world communism?

#### Key words:

<u>advocated</u> – said, supported

world communism – the whole world should be communist

#### What does it mean?

Did you say the whole world should be communist?



Set 4
Yes or No Questions

#### Question 5b:

Have you ever advocated or been a member of group that advocated opposition to all organized government?

Yes or No?

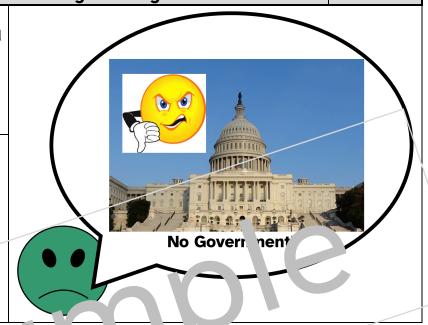
#### Key words:

advocated -said, supported

opposition to all organized government – said it was bad to have a government

#### What does it mean?

Did you say it was bad to have any government?



#### Question 5b

Have you ever advoc ted the sablishment in the United States of a totalita ian. Latatorship?

Yes or No?

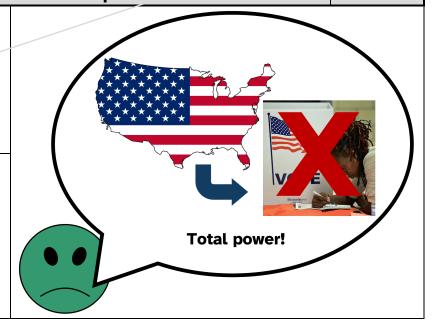
#### **Key words:**

<u>advocated</u> – said, supported

totalitarian dictatorship – a government with total power and no voting

#### What does it mean?

Did you say the U.S. should have a government with total power and no voting?



#### Question 5b:

Yes or No?

Yes or No?

Have you ever **advocated the overthrow by force or violence** or other unconstitutional means of the government of the United States or all forms of law?

#### **Key words:**

<u>advocated</u> - said, supported

overthrow by force or violence – attack or kill the leaders of the government to get different leaders

#### What does it mean?

Did you say people should attack or kill the leaders of the U.S. government to get different leaders?



#### Question 5b:

Have you ever a liver we he inlaw ula sat ting or killing of any officers of the government of the United States or of any other organized gives ment because of their official character?

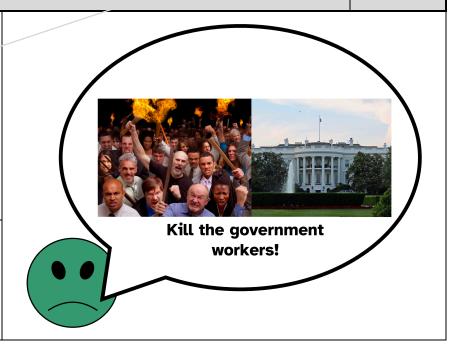
#### **Key words:**

<u>advocated</u> - said, supported

the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officers of the government – attack or kill any people who work for the government

#### What does it mean?

Did you say people should attack or kill any people who work in the government because of their jobs?



#### Question 5b:

Yes or No?

Yes or No?

Have you ever advocated the unlawful damage, injury or destruction of property?

#### **Key words:**

<u>advocated</u> - said, supported

the unlawful damage, injury or destruction of property – to harm a building or other things people own, like furniture, cars or planes

#### What does it mean?

Did you say people should harm a building or other things people own?



#### Question 5b:

Have you ever advo atea sabotage?

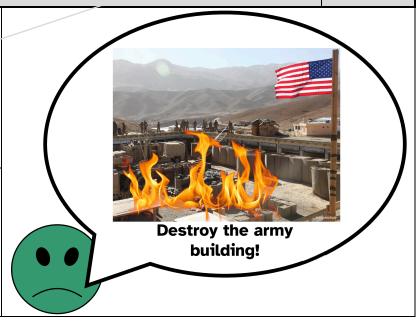
#### **Key words:**

<u>advocated</u> – said, supported

sabotage - harm a building, car, plane or ship to hurt the army or the government

#### What does it mean?

Did you say people should harm a building, car, plane or ship to hurt the army or the government?



## Set 5 Yes or No Questions

#### Question 11:

Yes or No?

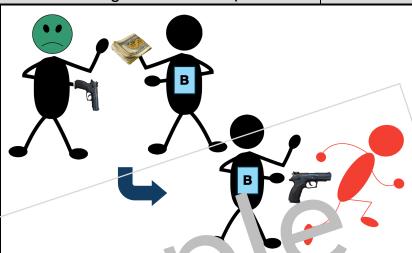
Have you ever sold, provided, or transported **weapons** which you knew or believed would be used against another person?

#### **Key words:**

weapons - guns

#### What does it mean?

Did you sell or give someone a gun that they used to shoot someone?



#### Question 10a

Yes or No?

Were you eve. \_\_ t c any g oup or organization that used a weapon against an person or threatened to do so?

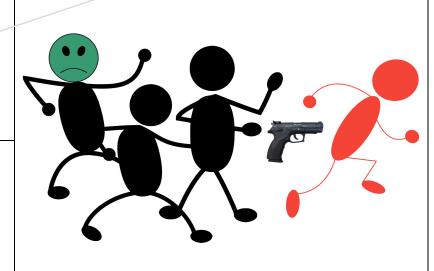
#### Key words:

<u>weapon</u> - gun

threatened - said you would hart or kill someone if they do not do what you want

#### What does it mean?

Were you part of a group that shot people or said you would shoot people if they did not do what you wanted?



#### Question 6a:

Have you ever been a member of or have you provided money or any help to a group that used a **weapon or explosive** with intent to harm another person or cause damage to property?

Yes or No?

> s or No?

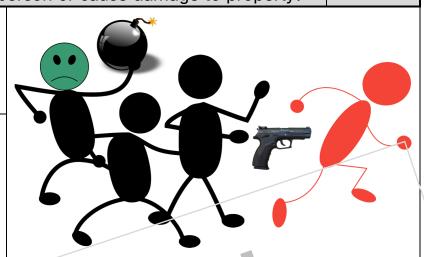
#### **Key words:**

weapon - gun

explosive - bomb

#### What does it mean?

Did you help a group that used guns or bombs to hurt people?



#### Question 65:

Have you ever been a member of or have ou rovid d noney or any help to a group that and ged a kid ap assassination, or hij ckin or sabo age of an airplane, ship, vehicle and the node transportation?

#### **Key words:**

kidnapping, association - took, hurt or killed people like terrorists do

hijacking or sabotage used a plane, ship or car to hurt or kill people like terrorists do

#### What does it mean?

Did you help a group do bad things that terrorists do?



#### Question 6c:

Have you ever been a member of or have you provided money or any help to a group that **threatened**, **attempted**, **conspired**, **prepared**, **planned**, **advocated** for or incited others to commit any of the acts in question 6a or 6b?

Yes or No?

#### **Key words:**

threatened, attempted,
conspired, prepared,
planned, advocated for or
incited others to commit
- tried to get other
people to do things

#### What does it mean?

Did you help a group that tried to get other people to do bad things that terrorists do?



#### Question c & 7d:

Have you de 'de'ed, i rited, called for, committed, assisted, helped vith or participated in killing or trying to kill any person. Or intentionally and severely injuring or trying to injure any person

Yes or No?

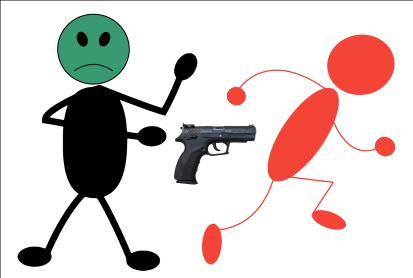
#### **Key words:**

<u>for</u> - tried to get other people to do things

<u>intentionally and severely</u> <u>injuring</u> – hurt someone very badly

#### What does it mean?

Did you kill anyone or tell someone to kill anyone? Did you hurt anyone very badly or tell someone to hurt anyone very badly?



### **Reading Test**

For the reading test, you have to read one sentence correctly. It is okay if you make a couple of small mistakes. If you make too many mistakes, they will show you another sentence. You can try to read up to 3 sentences.

The officer will say, "Read this sentence" and there will be a sentence on the tablet. You will read the question out loud. Do not answer the question.



Read this sentence.

Who was George Washington?

This is the list of words I. CIS uses a make the leading test sentences:

PEOPLE	CIVICS	PLACE	LIDAYS	QUESTION WORDS	VERBS	OTHER (FUNCTION)	OTHER (CONTENT)
Abraham Lincoln	American flag	merica	Presidents' Day	How	can	a	colors
George Washington	Bill of Rights	United States	Memorial Day	What	come	for	dollar bill
	capital	U.S.	Flag Day	When	do/does	here	first
	citizen		Independence Day	Where	elects	in	largest
	city		Labor Day	Who	have/has	of	many
	Congress		Columbus Day	Why	is/are/was/be	on	most
	country		Thanksgiving		lives/lived	the	north
	Father of Our Country				meet	to	one
	government				name	we	people
	President				pay		second
	right				vote		south
	Senators				want		
	state/states						
	White House						

#### **Possible Reading Sentences**

- What city is the capital of the United States?
- Where is the capital of the U.S. government?
- What city is the capital of our country?
- What city was the first capital of the U.S.?
- Where was the first capital of the United States?
- Name the city where the president lives.
- Where does the president live?
- Who lives in the White House?
- Where is the White House?
- Who was George Washington?
- Who is on the one dollar bill?
- Who was the first president of the United States
- Who was the second president of the 'lited' tata'?
- Who was Abraham Lincoln?
- When was .oranam l .coln res. ent?
- Who can vite in the United Sintes
- Why do people want to chazen?
- Who elects the pr sident?
- Who can vote for president?
- When do we vote for president?
- When do we elect the president?
- Who elects Congress?
- Who can vote for Congress?
- How many senators do we have?
- How many senators are in Congress?
- Where does Congress meet?
- Why do people come here?
- Why do people come to America?
- What do people in the United States pay?
- What do people pay to the government?
- Name one right in the Bill of Rights.
- Name one right people have in the United States.
- Name the colors on the American flag.
- Who lived here first?
- How many states are in the United States?
- What was the first state?
- What is the largest state in the U.S.?
- What state has the most people?
- What country is north of the United States?
- What country is south of the U.S.?



You read the sentence.

You do NOT answer the question.

- When is Presidents Day?
- When is Memorial Day?
- When is Flag Day?
- When is Independence Day?
- When is Labor Day?
- When is Columbus Day?
- When is Thanksgiving?



### **Writing Test**

For the writing test, you have to write one sentence correctly. It is okay if you make a couple of small mistakes. If you make too many mistakes, you will write another sentence. You can try to write up to 3 sentences.

The officer will say, "Write this sentence" and they will say the sentence. You will write the sentence on the tablet with a stylus or your finger. You can ask the officer to repeat the sentence. You can check your sentence and fix it if you need to before the officer checks it.



Write this sentence: Washington was the first president.

<u>washington was</u> the first president.

This is the list of words USCIS uses to make the writing test sentences:

PEOPLE	CIVICS	PLACES	MONTHS	HOLIDAYS	VERBS	OTHER (FUNCTION)	OTHER (CONTENT)
Adams	American Indians	Alaska	February	Presidents' Day	can	and	blue
Lincoln	capital	California	May	Memorial Day	come	during	llar bill
Washington	citizens	Canada	June	Flag Day	elect	or	111ty/50
	Civil War	Delaware	July	Independence D	lave/has	е	£
	Congress	Mexico	Septem <sup>1</sup>	J oor Da	s/was/be	in	largest
	Father of Our Country	New York City	Oc er	lumbus 1	'cd	of	most
	flag	Unit States	Nov ber	T. \u00e4ksgiving	n ts	on	north
	free	Wası gton			pay	the	one
	freedom of speech	ashingu,C.			vote	to	one hundred/100
	President				want	we	people
	right						red
	Senators						second
	state/states						south
	White House						taxes
							white

#### **Possible Writing Sentences**

- Washington, D.C. is the capital.
- Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States.
- The capital is Washington, D.C.
- The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C.
- The first capital was New York City.
- New York City was the first capital.
- The president lives in Washington, D.C.
- The president lives in the White House
- The White House is in Washington, D.C.
- Washington was the first president.
- The first president was Washington.
- Washington was the Father of our Country.
- Washington is on the one dollar bill.
- Adams was the second Presi (nt.
- Lincoln y eside a using e Civ War.
- Citizen can vote.
- People want, vc ?.
- Citizens elect the president.
- People electine president.
- Citizens can vote for president.
- We vote for president in November.
- We elect the president in November.
- Citizens elect Congress.
- We have 100 senators.
- Congress has 100 senators.
- Congress meets in Washington, D.C.
- People come here to be free.
- People want to be free.
- People pay taxes.
- People in the United States pay taxes.
- One right is freedom of speech.
- The flag is red, white and blue.
- American Indians lived here first.
- We have 50 states in the United States.
- The United States has 50 states.
- Delaware was the first state.
- Alaska is the largest state.
- The largest state is Alaska.
- California has the most people.
- Canada is north of the United States.
- Mexico is south of the United States.



#### Remember:

You can ask the officer to repeat the sentence.

You can check your sentence.

- Presidents Day is in February.
- Memorial Day is in May.
- Flag Day is in June.
- Independence Day is in July.
- Labor Day is in September.
- Columbus Day is in October.
- Thanksgiving is in November.

## **Reading and Writing Set 1**

•	blue
•	red
•	flag
•	Flag Day
•	June
•	July
•	Washing on
•	Washington, D.C.

#### **Set 1 writing sentences:**

- 1. The flag is red, white and blue.
- 2. The first president was Washington.
- 3. Independence Day is in July.
- 4. The president lives in Washington, D.C.
- 5. Flag Day is in June.

1 Reading: Name the colors of the American flag. Writing:
The is, white and
Reading: Who was the first president? Writing:
The first president was
Reading: When is Independence Day? Writing:  Independence Day is in
Reading: Name the city where the president lives. Writing:
The president lives in
Reading: When is Flag Day? Writing:
500

## **Reading and Writing Set 2**

/k/ sound

•	Alaska
•	Canada
•	California
•	capital
•	Congress
•	Columbuc Lay
Re	eading only: U.J.

#### **Set 2 writing sentences:**

- 1. The largest state is Alaska.
- 2. Columbus Day is in October.
- 3. California has the most people.
- 4. Canada is north of the United States.
- 5. Congress meets in the capital.

1	Reading: What is the largest state? Writing:
Т	he largest state is
2	Reading: When is Columbus Day? Writing:
_	is in October.
	<u>.</u>
3	Reading: What state has the most people? Writing:
_	has the most people.
_	
4	Reading: What country is north of the U.S.? Writing:
_	is north of the United St tos.
_	
5	Reading. Where loes for gress meet? Writing:
_	meets in the

### **Reading and Writing Set 3**

/s/ sound

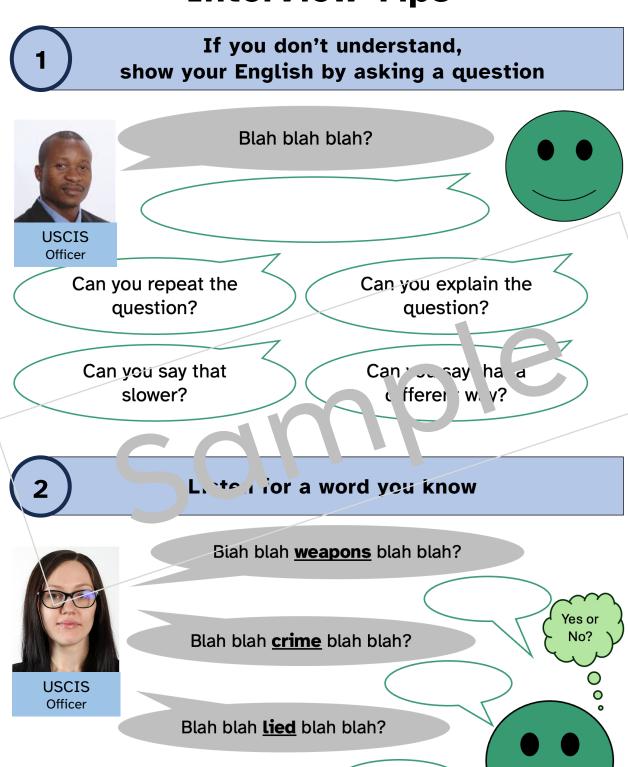
• president
• Presidents Day
Independence Day
• New York City
• Civil War
• citizens
• vote
Reading only: Abraham Lincoln

#### Set 3 writing senten ?s.

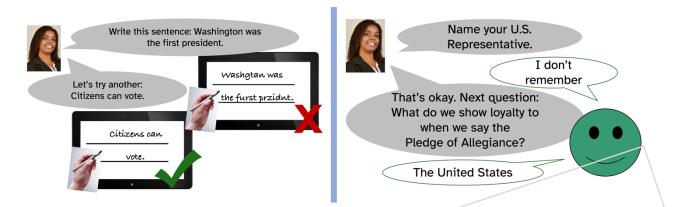
- 1. The first capital vas New York City.
- 2. Lincoln was president during the Civil War.
- 3. Presidents Day is in February.
- 4. Independence Day is in July.
- 5. Citizens can vote for president.

1	Reading: What city was the first capital of the U.S.? Writing:		
T _	he first capital was		
2	<b>Reading:</b> When was Abraham Lincoln president? <b>Writing:</b>		
_ _	incoln was during the		
3	Reading: When is Presidents Day? Writing:  is in February.		
4	Reading: When is Independence Day? Writing:  is it July.		
5	Reading: Who can sote for president? Writing:		

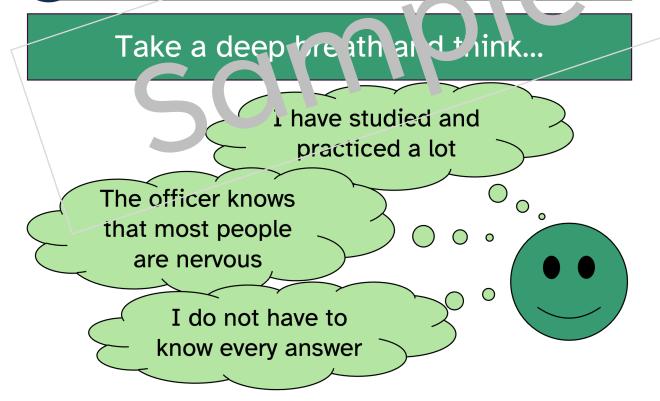
## **Interview Tips**







4 Help yourself calm down when you are rervous



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## The Oath of Allegiance

The Oath of Allegiance		What it means
I hereby declare, on oath,	=	I legally promise that
That I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;	=	I give up loyalty to other countries and I will be loyal to the United States.
That I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic;	=	I agree with the Constitution and the kind of government we have.
That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;	=	I will obey he Constitution and laws of the U. ited States
That I will bear ar 15 5.7 behr 7 or 1 = U. 'ted States whe required y the lay;	=	the government says I have to Join the military and fight, I will.
That I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States if required by the law;	=	If the government says I have to help the military in other ways that are not fighting, I will.
That I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;	=	If the government says I have to help the country in an emergency, not in the military, I will.
And that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.	=	I really feel loyal to the United States. I really want to be a U.S. citizen.