

U.S. Citizenship

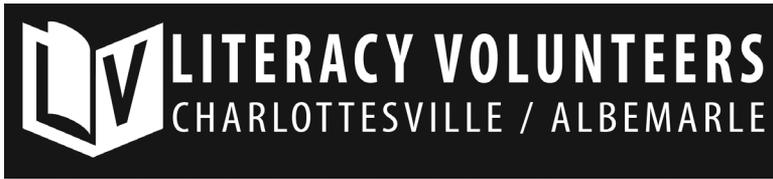
Preparing for the Interview

8th Edition



For Intermediate ESL Students

Produced by the staff of
Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle



Our Vision

All adults in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County will have the literacy and English language skills needed to independently pursue their life goals, support their families, and be active in their community.

Our Mission

Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle (LVCA) promotes literacy through free, confidential, one-to-one reading, writing, and English language tutoring.

Our Focus

- Assist students in developing their abilities to navigate within American society through reading, writing, and language acquisition.
- Provide instructional services to adults that will prepare them for further education and employment.

Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle is a non-profit organization, and exists on the generous contributions of individual, governmental, and corporate donors.

Please consider making a donation at www.literacyforall.org.

September 2019

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Warm, from Myanmar, shakes the hand of the judge after taking his Oath of Allegiance in September 2018.

The Naturalization Process

This is a four-part process that takes at least five months.

1. Complete the 20-page N-400 application.* Cost is \$640. You can get low-cost help at the International Rescue Committee, (434) 979-7772. Ask about any possible fee waivers.
2. Have your fingerprints taken in Northern Virginia. Cost: \$85.
3. Go to a 30-minute interview/test in Northern Virginia.
4. Participate in a swearing-in ceremony at your local Federal Courthouse.

*Information about citizenship, study resources, and the N-400 application are available at: www.uscis.gov.



Bethy (left), from El Salvador, became a U.S. citizen in September 2018. She's pictured with her tutor, Mary.

Parts of the Interview

1. The examiner will review your N-400 application to make sure it is complete and accurate. The examiner will ask you questions about some or all of the information on your application. Be prepared to say your full name, your current address, and your marital status, and answer any other questions from information supplied on your application. (See pages 6 - 9 for possible N-400 application questions and practice.) During this conversation, the examiner will also be assessing your ability to **speak** in English.
2. Before taking the test, you will study the 100 civics questions covering topics such as U.S. history, government, symbols, holidays, and geography. During the exam, you must correctly answer 6 of 10 civics questions.
3. You must also correctly **read** one sentence (you will have three chances) and correctly **write** one dictated sentence (three chances). Before the test, you will be able to study the vocabulary for the reading and writing tests, though you won't know the actual sentences.

During the interview, the examiner will be assessing your:

1. Ability to speak, understand, read, and write English
2. Knowledge of U.S. government and history
3. Moral character
4. Allegiance (commitment and respect) to the U.S. and its laws

You have two opportunities to take the English and civics tests per application. If you fail any part of your first interview, you will be retested on the part that you failed within 60-90 days.

N-400 Application Questions

The following questions will give you some practice on what may be asked of you from your N-400 application. You could be asked to clarify your answers to the questions below to make sure your application is complete and that you are able to respond well in English.

Information about you:

1. How do you spell your last name?
2. Would you like to legally change your name?
3. What is your Social Security Number?
4. When is your date of birth?
5. Where were you born? What is your nationality?
6. Where do you live? (city)
7. What is your address? How long have you lived there?
8. What was your previous address?
9. What is your telephone number?
10. What is your hair color? Eye color?
11. How tall are you? What is your height?
12. When did you come to the U.S.?
13. Do you have a disability that prevents you from understanding English or the civics requirement?
14. Are your parents U.S. citizens?
15. If yes, what are your parents' names?
16. What is your marital status? If you are married, what is your spouse's name?

17. Is your current spouse a U.S. citizen?
 - If yes, when did he/she become a citizen?
 - If not, what is his/her country of citizenship?
18. How many times have you been married?
19. If you were married before, when and how did it end?
20. How many sons and daughters do you have?
21. What are your children's names and ages?
22. Where and when were your children born?
23. Where do your children live now?
24. Do you work now? If yes, where?
25. Where have you worked during the last five years?
26. How many days did you spend outside of the U.S. over the past five years?
27. Where was your last trip outside of the U.S. and why did you go there? When did you go? (month and year)



Margarita (left), from Mexico, took her Oath of Allegiance in December 2018. She's pictured with her tutor, Nancy Jo.

“Have/Did/Were You Ever...” Questions

There are many questions on the N-400 application asking about your past. These questions are usually about your moral behavior and your participation in organizations. Below are some questions you might be asked. Be sure to review all of the information on your N-400 form.

Practice the following questions answering “yes” or “no.”

Remember: You must understand the question that is asked and you might be asked to explain what a word means. Focus on understanding the **bolded** words.

1. Have you ever **claimed to be a U.S. citizen**?
2. Have you ever called yourself a “**non U.S. resident**” on a tax return?
3. Have you ever **failed** to pay your taxes?
4. Have you ever been put into a **mental institution** within the last 5 years?
5. Have you ever **voted** in any U.S. election?
6. Have you ever **registered to vote** in a U.S. election?
7. Have you ever sold drugs **illegally**?
8. Have you ever been a habitual **drunkard**?
9. Have you ever been a **prostitute**?
10. Have you ever been married to more than one person at the same time?
11. Have you ever committed a crime for which you were not arrested?
12. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
13. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

14. Have you ever received a **suspended sentence or been placed on probation or parole?**
15. Have you ever been **deported** from the United States?
16. Have you ever **failed** to support dependents or **pay alimony?**
17. Have you ever **lied** to any U.S. Government official to gain admission into the U.S.?
18. Have you ever given any U.S. Government official false documentation?
19. Have you ever been in a **rehabilitative** program?
20. Have you ever been a member of a **club** or **organization?** If yes, what and when?
21. Have you ever been a member of a **communist** party?
22. Have you ever helped a **terrorist** organization?
23. Have you ever helped anyone enter the United States illegally?
24. Have you ever **gambled illegally?**
25. Have you ever been in **jail?**
26. Were you ever involved in **genocide?** Badly hurting someone? Not letting someone practice his or her religion?
27. Did you ever help a military unit? Police unit? Rebel group? Guerrilla group?
28. Were you ever a worker, volunteer, or soldier in a jail? Prison camp? Labor camp?
29. Did you ever sell, give, or train with **weapons?**
30. Did you ever use someone under 15 years of age to do anything in **combat?**

Loyalty to the U.S.

1. Do you support the **Constitution** and form of government of the U.S.?
2. Are you willing to take the **Oath of Allegiance** to the U.S.?
3. Are you willing to **bear arms** for the U.S.? (If you answer “no,” you should explain why. For example, “It’s against my religion.” OR “I am too old and can’t see well.”)
4. If the law requires it, are you willing to do **noncombatant** services for the military?



Hadi, from Afghanistan, became a citizen in March 2019.

Civics Test

Before your interview, you will study and memorize the answers to 100 civics questions about U.S. government, history, geography, symbols, and holidays. During the interview, you will be asked up to 10 questions from the list of 100 questions. You must correctly answer 6 of the 10 questions.

Practice reading the questions and saying the answers out loud. Also, practice writing out some answers. (Answer key starts on page 16).

- A.**
1. What is the supreme law of the land?
 2. What is an amendment?
 3. What does the Constitution do?
 4. Who vetoes bills?
 5. What does the President's Cabinet do?
 6. What are **two** Cabinet-level positions?
 7. What is **one** reason colonists came to America?
 8. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
 9. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
 10. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
- B.**
1. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
 2. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
 3. What is **one** right or freedom from the First Amendment?
 4. What does the judicial branch do?
 5. What is the highest court in the United States?

6. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
 7. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
 8. Name **one** war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
 9. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
 10. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?
- C.**
1. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
 2. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
 3. What are **two** rights in the Declaration of Independence?
 4. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
 5. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is **one** power of the federal government?
 6. Why did the colonists fight the British?
 7. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
 8. Name **one** problem that led to the Civil War.
 9. Name **one** American Indian tribe in the United States.
 10. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
- D.**
1. What is freedom of religion?
 2. What is the economic system in the United States?
 3. What is the “rule of law”?
 4. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is **one** power of the states?
 5. Who is the Governor of your state now?
 6. What is the capital of your state?
 7. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

8. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
9. What is **one** important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?
10. What is the name of the national anthem?

- E.**
1. Name **one** branch or part of the government.
 2. What stops **one** branch of government from becoming too powerful?
 3. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
 4. Who makes federal laws?
 5. What are the **two** major political parties in the United States?
 6. What is the political party of the President now?
 7. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
 8. There were 13 original states. Name **three**.
 9. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
 10. Name **one** of the two longest rivers in the United States.
- F.**
1. What are the **two** parts of the U.S. Congress?
 2. How many U.S. Senators are there?
 3. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
 4. Who is **one** of your state's U.S. Senators now?
 5. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe **one** of them.
 6. What is **one** responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
 7. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
 8. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
 9. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
 10. Name **one** U.S. territory.

- G.**
1. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
 2. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
 3. Name your U.S. Representative.
 4. Name **one** right only for United States citizens.
 5. What are **two** rights of everyone living in the United States?
 6. When was the Constitution written?
 7. Who was the first President?
 8. Name **one** war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
 9. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
 10. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- H.**
1. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
 2. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
 3. We elect a President for how many years?
 4. In what month do we vote for President?
 5. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
 6. What is **one** promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
 7. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?
 8. Who was the President during World War I?
 9. Name **one** state that borders Canada.
 10. Why does the flag have 50 stars?
- I.**
1. What is the name of the President of the United States now?
 2. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

3. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
 4. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
 5. What are **two** ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
 6. What is **one** thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
 7. Who was the President during the Great Depression and World War II?
 8. Name **one** state that borders Mexico.
 9. What is the capital of the United States?
 10. Name **two** national U.S. holidays.
- J.**
1. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
 2. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
 3. Who signs bills to become laws?
 4. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
 5. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
 6. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name **one** of the writers.
 7. Who did the United States fight in World War II?
 8. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
 9. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
 10. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

Answer Key

For some questions, you only need to know one or two of the possible answers.

- A.**
1. the Constitution
 2. a change or addition to the Constitution
 3. sets up and defines the government, protects basic rights of Americans
 4. the President
 5. advises the President
 6. There are 16 positions. Here are some: Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Labor, Attorney General, Vice President
 7. religious freedom, political liberty, economic opportunities
 8. Native Americans or American Indians
 9. Louisiana
 10. Communism
- B.**
1. We the People
 2. the Bill of Rights
 3. speech, religion, assembly, press, petition the government
 4. reviews laws, explains laws, resolves disputes, decides if a law goes against the Constitution
 5. the Supreme Court
 6. 9
 7. Africans, people from Africa
 8. World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, (Persian) Gulf War

9. Civil Rights (Movement)
10. Terrorists attacked the United States.

C. 1. 27

2. said the United States is free (from Great Britain)
3. life, liberty, pursuit of happiness
4. John Roberts
5. to print money, to declare war, to create an army, to make treaties
6. because of high taxes, because the colonists didn't have self-government, because the British army stayed in their houses
7. the Civil War or the War Between the States
8. slavery, economic reasons, states' rights
9. There are many American Indian tribes. Some are: Blackfeet, Apache, Navajo, Cherokee, Shawnee, Huron, Hopi, Lakota.
10. fought for civil rights, worked for equality for all Americans

D. 1. You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

2. capitalist economy or market economy
3. Everyone must follow the law. No one is above the law.
4. provide schooling and education, provide protection (police), provide safety (fire departments), issue a driver's license
5. current Virginia Governor _____
6. Richmond
7. (Thomas) Jefferson
8. July 4, 1776
9. freed the slaves, saved the Union, led the U.S. during the Civil War
10. The Star-Spangled Banner

- E.**
1. Congress, legislative, President, executive, the courts, judicial
 2. checks and balances, separation of powers
 3. the President
 4. Congress, Senate and House
 5. Democratic and Republican
 6. current President's political party _____
 7. current Speaker of the House _____
 8. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia
 9. freed the slaves
 10. Missouri River, Mississippi River
- F.**
1. the Senate and House (of Representatives)
 2. 100
 3. 6
 4. current Virginia U.S. Senators _____

 5. Any citizen 18 and older can vote.
You don't have to pay to vote.
 6. serve on a jury, vote in a federal election
 7. The Constitution was written.
 8. fought for women's rights, fought for civil rights
 9. Pacific (Ocean)
 10. Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam

- G.**
1. 435
 2. 2 years
 3. your current U.S. Representative _____
 4. vote in a federal election, run for federal office
 5. freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of assembly, freedom to petition the government, right to bear arms
 6. 1787
 7. (George) Washington
 8. War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War
 9. Atlantic (Ocean)
 10. because there were 13 original colonies

- H.**
1. all people of the state
 2. some states have more people
 3. 4
 4. November
 5. the United States, the flag
 6. give up loyalty to other countries, be loyal to the U.S., obey the laws of the U.S., serve in the U.S. military (if needed), serve the nation (if needed)
 7. (George) Washington
 8. (Woodrow) Wilson
 9. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Alaska
 10. because there is one star for each state

- I.**
1. current President _____
 2. current Vice President _____
 3. the Vice President
 4. 18 and older
 5. vote, join a political party, join a community group, call Senators and Representatives, run for office, write to a newspaper, give an elected official your opinion on an issue
 6. U.S. diplomat, oldest member of the Constitutional Convention, writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac," started the first free libraries
 7. (Franklin) Roosevelt
 8. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas
 9. Washington, D.C.
 10. New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Labor Day...
- J.**
1. the Speaker of the House
 2. the President
 3. the President
 4. April 15
 5. at age 18, between 18 and 26
 6. (James) Madison, (Alexander) Hamilton, (John) Jay, Publius
 7. Japan, Germany, and Italy
 8. World War II
 9. July 4
 10. New York, Liberty Island

Practice for the Reading Test

At the interview, you will be asked to correctly read one question. You will get three chances to read a question correctly. Although USCIS does not provide the questions ahead of time, it does provide a Reading Vocabulary list that includes all the words that might be used in composing the question. The list can be found on the USCIS website: www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

Here are some practice questions for the reading section of the test:

1. What is the capital of the United States?
2. What are the colors of the flag?
3. What is the largest state?
4. What state has the most people?
5. Who lived here first?
6. When is Independence Day?
7. What was the first U.S. state?
8. Who is the Father of Our Country?
9. When is Presidents' Day?
10. Who elects Congress?
11. How many Senators do we have?
12. When do we vote for President?
13. Where does the President live?
14. Who can vote?

Practice for the Writing Test

At the interview, you will be asked to correctly write one sentence. This sentence will be dictated to you by the examiner. You will get three chances to write a sentence correctly. Although USCIS does not provide the sentences ahead of time, it does provide a Writing Vocabulary list that includes all the words that might be used in composing the sentence. The list can be found on the USCIS website: www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

Here are some practice sentences for the writing section of the test:

1. Washington, D.C. is the capital.
2. The flag is red, white, and blue.
3. Alaska is the largest state.
4. California has the most people.
5. American Indians lived here first.
6. Independence Day is in July.
7. Delaware was the first state.
8. Washington is the father of our country.
9. Presidents' Day is in February.
10. The people elect Congress.
11. We have 100 Senators.
12. We vote for President in November.
13. The President lives in the White House.
14. Citizens can vote.

Tips for a Successful Interview

- Review a copy of your completed citizenship application, Form N-400. Make sure you understand and can verbally answer all the questions on the form.
- Study the list of 100 questions about U.S. history, government, holidays, and symbols. The questions and answers are in this booklet and can also be found on the USCIS website: www.uscis.gov/citizenship
- Practice reading and writing sentences related to history and civics made from the official reading and writing vocabulary lists. Sample reading questions and writing sentences can be found in this booklet. The vocabulary lists can be found on the USCIS website.
- Be prepared to make “small talk” with the USCIS officer. For example, the officer may ask you about the weather, if you had trouble finding the building, or if anyone has come with you. The officer will be assessing how well you understand and speak English.
- Gather all your required documents in advance. Have them organized and ready to take with you to your interview.
- Once you know your interview date, make sure you know the address, directions, and how long it will take to get to the USCIS office. Make plans for reliable transportation well before your interview date.
- Leave very early on the day of your interview to reduce stress and to make sure you are on time.
- Dress in clean, neat clothes appropriate for an important occasion.
- During the interview, be confident, friendly, and respectful. Sit up straight and look at the officer while speaking. Speak as clearly as you can.

- Answer only the questions you are asked. Answer briefly, directly, and honestly.
- If you don't understand a question, you may ask the officer to repeat it slowly or to use different words.
- At the end of the interview, the officer will give you a form with the results in writing. Be sure you take this form with you and keep it in a safe place with your other important documents.



Bushiri, from DR Congo, became a citizen in December 2018.

Next Steps after Becoming a U.S. Citizen

- One of our most important rights and responsibilities as citizens is to vote. The League of Women Voters will help you register right after your oath ceremony, or you can register online: www.elections.virginia.gov
- Stay informed about the issues affecting your community. Participate in the democratic process and get involved.
- Obtain a U.S. passport.
- Obtain a U.S. passport or Certificate of Citizenship for minor children who may have automatically become citizens when you were naturalized.
- Update your social security record. To find your social security office, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov.



Marzieh, from Afghanistan, became a citizen in May 2018.

Citizenship Resources

USCIS Citizenship Resources

www.uscis.gov/citizenship

This official U.S. government citizenship website provides information on eligibility requirements and the application process, as well as study materials.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Charlottesville Office

www.rescue.org/united-states/charlottesville-va
(434) 979-7772

The IRC is accredited by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals and can provide low-cost assistance in filling out and filing the N-400 Application for Naturalization. The IRC can also help with family reunification petitions and permanent residency. You do not need to have refugee status to get citizenship application assistance from the IRC.

Sin Barreras/Without Barriers

www.sinbarrerascville.com
(434) 531-0104

Sin Barreras is a Charlottesville-based non-profit that focuses on outreach to the immigrant (primarily Hispanic) community, connecting individuals to services. Sin Barreras hosts workshops, provides individual legal consultations, and provides immigration and citizenship application services.

Thomas Jefferson Adult and Career Education (TJACE@PVCC)

www.pvcc.edu/tjace
(434) 961-5461

TJACE@PVCC offers ESOL classes for all levels of adult learners who want to improve their English skills. TJACE also offers GED preparation classes and job skills training.

Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle

www.literacyforall.org

(434) 977-3838

Literacy Volunteers provides one-to-one tutoring for students who want to improve their English skills. Tutors can help students study for the citizenship interview/test. Literacy Volunteers also offers citizenship classes throughout the year.



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www.literacyforall.org

Since 1983, Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle has offered free one-to-one tutoring for adults in our community who are learning how to read, write, and/or speak English.