

Citizenship  
Vocabulary List

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# Unit 1: Steps to Becoming a U.S. Citizen

## Lesson 1.1: Become a U.S. Citizen

### Am I Eligible? – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **USCIS** | United States Citizenship and Immigration Services | The USCIS office will process your application for citizenship. |
| **naturalization** | the process of becoming a citizen | To become a U.S. citizen, you need to go through the naturalization process. |
| **at least** | not less than | You must be at least 18 years old to vote. |
| **requirement** | something you need to have | One requirement for becoming a U.S. citizen is that you must have a basic understanding of U.S. history. |
| **qualified / eligible** | having the necessary requirements | Are you qualified to become a U.S. citizen? Are you eligible to become a U.S. citizen? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.3: Information About You

### Identification – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **full name** | first name, middle name, last name (all of your names) | My full name is Ivan Yuryevich Popov. |
| **current** | present time, now | What is your current full name? My full name is Ivan Illyvich Popov. |
| **first name** | given name | What is your first name? My first name is Ivan. |
| **last name** | family name or surname | What is your current last name? My last name is Popov. |
| **middle name** | a name between your first name and your surname | Note: Your middle name is not your surname.  What is your middle name? |
| **maiden name** | a woman’s last name before she marries | My maiden name was Teresa Smith. My current name is Teresa Martinez. |
| **nickname** | a casual name used by your family and friends | Do you have any nicknames?  My nickname is Eddie. |
| **legal name** | full name used on legal documents | My legal name is Ron Turner. |
| **alias** | a different name | Have you ever used an alias or any other names?  My legal name is Carla Martin, but my driver’s license says Carlota Martin. |
| **change your name** | a court changes your name to a different name | Do you want to change your legal name today?  No, I don’t want to change my name. |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.3: Information About You

### Identification – Learn Key Words 2

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **date of birth** | the month, day and year you were born | What is your date of birth? June 28, 1967 |
| **country of birth** | the country where you were born | What is your country of birth? I was born in Argentina. |
| **country of citizenship** | the country where you are currently a citizen | What is your country of citizenship? I’m a citizen of France. |
| **permanent resident** | person who has permission to live and work in the U.S. permanently | How long have you been a lawful permanent resident? For 8 years. |
| **lawful** | legal | How long have you been a lawful permanent resident? |
| **green card** | legal permanent residence card | Could you please show me your green card? |
| **state-issued identification** | a driver’s license or other photo ID from your state | Can I see your state-issued identification? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.3: Information About You

### Physical Description – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **gender** | male or female | What is your gender? |
| **weight** | how much you weigh in pounds | How much do you weigh?  I weigh 150 pounds. |
| **height** | how tall you are in feet and inches | How tall are you?  I’m five feet, seven inches. |
| **hair color** | hair colors include black, brown, red, blonde, grey, and white | What color is your hair?  It’s black. |
| **bald** | with no or very little hair | I’m bald. |
| **eye color** | eye colors include blue, green, and brown | What color are your eyes?  They’re brown. |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.3: Information About You

### Accommodations – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **accommodation** | a change of process, for example, extra time or a sign-language interpreter | Are you requesting any accommodations or exemptions today? |
| **exemption** | when you are NOT required to do something | Are you requesting any accommodations or exemptions today? |
| **disability** | a condition that makes it difficult to do things most people can do | Are you requesting a waiver based on a medical disability? |
| **waiver / waive** | permission to NOT do something | Are you requesting a waiver to waive the English and civics test? |
| **impairment** | part of your body or mind is damaged or does not work well | Are you requesting other accommodations based on a disability or impairment? |
| **age** | how old a person is | What is your age? |
| **blind** | cannot see | I’m blind. |
| **deaf** | cannot hear | I’m deaf. |
| **wheelchair** | a chair with wheels | I use a wheelchair. |
| **hard of hearing** | when a person has difficulty hearing | I’m hard of hearing. |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.4: Contact Information

### Telephone and Email – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **daytime phone number** | the phone number you use during the day | What is your daytime phone number? |
| **evening phone number** | the phone number you use after 4 or 5 p.m. | What is your evening phone number? |
| **cell phone** | mobile phone | Is that a cell phone number? |
| **email address** | your electronic mailing address | Do you have an email address? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.4: Contact Information

### Residences – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **home address** | the address where you live | What is your current home address? |
| **mailing address** | an address where you receive mail | Is your mailing address different from your home address? |
| **zip code** | postal code, for example: 81723 | What is your zip code?  My zip code is 93515. |
| **state** | There are 50 states in the U.S. | What state do you live in?  I live in California. |
| **county** | part of a state; every U.S. state is divided into counties | What county do you live in?  I live in Inyo County. |
| **foreign** | from a different country, not from the United States | Is that a foreign address? |
| **residence** | home | Is that your current residence? |
| **move to** | start living in a home | When did you move to your current address? |
| **apartment** | a residence that is in a building with other apartments | Is that an apartment? What is the apartment number? |
| **previous / prior** | before; in the past | What was your previous home address? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.5: Employment, Schools, and Travel

### Jobs and Schools – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **job title** | your job, occupation, or position | What is your job title?  I’m a cook. |
| **to be employed** | to have a job | How long have you been employed at Marie’s Restaurant? |
| **unemployed** | to not have a job when you want one | How long have you been unemployed? |
| **laid off** | to lose a job for a reason that is not your fault | I was laid off when the company closed my store. |
| **self-employed** | to have your own business | I’m self-employed. I own a small market. |
| **recent** | from a time in the near past | I started working at my most recent job last year. Before that, I worked at a restaurant. |
| **retired** | to stop working permanently | I’m retired. I stopped working at the age of 65. |
| **employer** | company or person you work for | My employer is Marie’s Restaurant. |
| **support yourself / support your family** | provide money for living | Do you support yourself?  No, I don’t work. My son supports me. |
| **income** | money that you earn or money you receive from the government | What kind of income do you have?  I have a full-time job.  I get Social Security. |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.5: Employment, Schools, and Travel

### Time Outside the U.S. – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **spend time** | to pass time | How much time did you spend outside of the U.S.?  Five weeks. |
| **trip** | when you go somewhere | How many trips outside the United States have you taken in the last five years?  Two. I went to Canada and to Mexico. |
| **travel** | to go to a different place | Since you came to the U.S., have you traveled to any other countries?  Yes, I have |
| **overseas** | in another country | Have you been overseas in the last five years?  Yes, I have. |
| **to last** | to continue in time | How long did your trip to Mexico last?  Six days. |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.6: Family Relationships

### Marital History – Learn Key Words

### 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **married** | to be legally joined as a couple | I’m married.  When did you marry your first spouse?  I married her in 2010. |
| **single** | not married | I’m single. |
| **divorced** | to legally end a marriage | I’m divorced. |
| **marital status** | married, single, divorced, etc. | What is your marital status? |
| **spouse** | husband or wife | Is your spouse a U.S. citizen? |
| **ex-husband / ex-wife** | spouse you are divorced from | When did you and your ex-husband get divorced? |
| **deceased** | to stop living / to die / to pass away | My husband is deceased. He passed away in 2011. |
| **widowed** | marital status after spouse has died | I was widowed in 2011. |
| **marriage** | legal relationship between spouses | When did your marriage end? |
| **annulled** | A court says that a marriage has never happened | My marriage was annulled in 2014. |
| **separated** | having court documents that say you are no longer a couple (although you are still married) | My wife and I are separated. |
| **prior / previous / former** | before; in the past | Did your spouse have any previous legal names? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.6: Family Relationships

### Parents and Children – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **children** | plural of *child* | Do you have any children from your current marriage? |
| **son** | male child | I have one son. |
| **daughter** | female child | When was your daughter born? |
| **stepchild / children** | the child of a spouse and his or her ex-spouse | I have a step-daughter. She’s my wife’s child from a former marriage. |
| **legally adopted** | to bring a child into a family through a legal process | Do you have any legally adopted children? |
| **biological** | related through birth | Do you have any biological children?  Yes, I have one biological child and one adopted child. |
| **relationship** | a romantic or sexual friendship between two people | Do you have any children from a previous relationship? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.7: Civic Responsibility

### Civic Responsibility – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **claim** | to say, write or tell something; often something that is false (not true) | Have you ever claimed to be a U.S. citizen? |
| **register to vote** | to fill out a form to vote | Have you ever registered to vote in the United States? |
| **vote** | to officially choose a new leader or law by casting a ballot | Have you ever voted in the United States? |
| **hereditary title** | to be member of the family of a king or queen | Do you now have, or did you ever have, a hereditary title? |
| **nobility** | to have a special name or social rank | Do you now have, or did you ever have an order of nobility? |
| **foreign country** | not the U.S. | Have you ever had a hereditary title or an order of nobility in a foreign country? |
| **declared legally incompetent** | a judge or a doctor said that you were not able to make important decisions for yourself | Have you ever been declared legally incompetent? |
| **confined to a mental institution** | to stay in an hospital for people with mental illness | Have you ever been confined to a mental institution? |
| **overdue** | late for payment | Do you have any overdue taxes? |
| **owe** | to need to pay | Do you owe any overdue federal, state, or local taxes? |
| **file a tax return** | to send the government a form to say how much money you made and how much tax you paid | Have you ever not filed a tax return since you became a permanent resident? |
| **non-resident** | a person who does not (permanently) live in the United States | Have you called yourself a non-U.S. resident on a federal, state, or local tax return since you became a lawful permanent resident? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.8: Memberships and Associations

### Groups – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **member** | a person in a group that comes together to do something | Have you ever been a member of any organization? |
| **the Communist Party** | a party that believes in communism and forbids most private property, such as the government party of China, Vietnam, North Korea, and Cuba | Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party? |
| **totalitarian** | a government that has control over everyone and the people have no power | Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party or any other totalitarian party? |
| **associated with** | connected to | Have you ever been associated with the Communist Party or any other totalitarian party? |
| **terrorist** | A terrorist uses violence to hurt people and governments. | Have you ever been associated with a terrorist group? |
| **advocate** | to support or to work for | Have you ever advocated for violence against a government? |
| **overthrow** | to use force or violence to change the government | Have you ever advocated the overthrow of any government by force or violence? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.8: Memberships and Associations

### War Crimes – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **persecute** | to treat someone cruelly or unfairly or hurt them because of different beliefs | Have you ever persecuted any person because of their race, religion, national origin, social group, or political opinion? |
| **genocide** | to kill a group of people because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or gender | Were you ever involved with genocide? |
| **torture** | to hurt and cause severe pain to a person so he or she will tell secrets or information | Were you ever involved with torture? |
| **kill** | to cause a person to die | Were you ever involved with killing or trying to kill someone? |
| **hurt** | to injure someone | Have you ever tried to hurt someone on purpose? |
| **on purpose** | to do something intentionally | Have you ever tried to hurt someone on purpose? |
| **force** | to make someone do something he or she does not want to do | Were you ever involved with forcing or trying to force someone to have sexual contact? |
| **let** | permit, allow | Were you ever involved with not letting someone practice his or her religion? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.8: Memberships and Associations

### Military Groups – Learn Key Words1

### 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **U.S. Armed Forces** | the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard | Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces? |
| **paramilitary unit** | a group of people who act like a military group but are not part of the official military | Did you ever serve in a paramilitary unit? |
| **self-defense unit** | a group of people organized to protect their community against crime & violence | Were you ever part of a self-defense unit? |
| **vigilante unit** | a group of people who act like the police, but are not part of the official police | Have you ever helped a vigilante unit? |
| **rebel group or insurgent organization** | a person or group who fights against a government | Did you ever participate in a rebel group or insurgent organization? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.8: Memberships and Associations

### Military Groups – Learn Key Words 2

### 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **guerrilla** | a group of people who use weapons against or attack the military, police, government, or other people | Have you ever been part of guerrilla organization? |
| **militia** | an army of people, not part of the official military | Did you ever serve in or help a militia group? |
| **detention facility** | a place like a prison or jail where people are forced to stay | Were you ever a worker in a prison, jail, or detention facility? |
| **labor camp** | a place where people are forced to work (they do not have a choice and cannot leave) | Did you ever work or serve in a labor camp? |
| **weapon** | an object such as a gun, knife, or bomb which can hurt or kill people | Have you ever sold weapons to any person? |
| **threaten** | to say that you will hurt or kill a person if they don’t do what you want | Did you ever help any group that threatened other people or groups with weapons? |
| **recruit, enlist, or conscript** | ask, convince, or make people join a group | Did you ever recruit, enlist, or conscript any person under 15 years of age to help an armed force? |
| **combat** | fight with weapons; fight in a war | Did you ever use any person under 15 years of age to do anything that helped people in combat? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.9: Illegal Activities

### Criminal Record and Crimes – Learn Key Words 1

### 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **commit a crime or offense** | to do something illegal or break the law | Have you ever committed a crime or offense? |
| **arrested** | the police take a person for questioning or to jail | Have you ever been arrested? |
| **cited** | an official order for someone to appear in court or pay a fine for doing something illegal, for example driving too fast | Have you ever been cited by a law enforcement officer? |
| **detained** | to be stopped by the police or a government official for questioning or taken to jail | Have you ever been detained by a government official? |
| **charged with a crime** | when police officially say a person has broken the law and they start a court case | Have you ever been charged with committing a crime? |
| **convicted of a crime** | a judge or court finds you guilty and decides that you must serve time in jail or pay a penalty for a crime | Have you ever been convicted of a crime? |
| **rehabilitative program (“rehab”)** | a program to cure drug or alcohol problems of addiction or anger management problems | Have you ever been placed in a rehabilitative program? |
| **sentence** | a punishment given by a judge | Have you ever received a suspended sentence? |
| **suspended sentence** | a punishment you don’t need to do unless you get into trouble | Have you ever received a suspended sentence? |
| **probation** | when you are supervised by a court or officer instead of spending time in jail | Have you ever been placed on probation? |
| **paroled** | when you are allowed to leave prison early, but must regularly report to an officer | Have you ever been paroled? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.9: Illegal Activities

### Criminal Record and Crimes – Learn Key Words 2

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **habitual drunkard** | a person who drinks too much alcohol every day | Have you ever been a habitual drunkard? |
| **prostitute** | a person who has sex for money | Prostitution is illegal in most of the United States. |
| **procure** | to buy | It is illegal to procure someone for prostitution or to pay someone for sex. |
| **Illegal drugs** | drugs that are against federal law, such as marijuana, heroin, opium and cocaine (even if they are legal under state or local law, like marijuana sometimes is) | Have you ever sold illegal drugs? |
| **smuggle** | to bring something into the country secretly | Have you ever smuggled illegal drugs? |
| **gamble** | to play cards or games for money | Some kinds of gambling are illegal, and it is illegal to gamble in some places. |
| **dependents** | people (spouse, children, parents) who get money from you for living expenses | Your dependents are the people you support. |
| **fail to** | to not do something you should do | Have you ever failed to support your dependents? |
| **alimony** | money that a court orders someone to pay monthly to their ex-spouse after a divorce | Have you ever failed to pay alimony? |
| **public benefits** | social services or financial support from the government | Have you ever lied to get any public benefits in the United States? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.9: Illegal Activities

### Immigration and Deportation – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **false, fraudulent, or misleading** | to say or do something that is not true or hides the truth | Have you ever given any U.S. official information that was false, fraudulent, or misleading? |
| **gain entry or admission** | to get permission to come into the United States | Have you ever lied to a U.S. official to gain entry or admission to the United States? |
| **removed, excluded, or deported** | officially made to leave to the United States or not allowed to enter (for example, stopped at a border or airport and denied entry) | Have you ever been removed, excluded, or deported from the United States? |
| **ordered** | a judge said you must do something | Have you ever been ordered removed, excluded, or deported from the United States? |
| **proceedings** | a legal case to decide a person's immigration status | Have you ever been placed in deportation proceedings? |
| **rescission** | the government cancels a person's legal status to enter or live in the U.S. after permission had been originally given | Have you ever been placed in removal, exclusion, rescission, or deportation proceedings? |
| **pending** | still waiting for a decision; not decided | Are removal, exclusion, rescission, or deportation proceedings currently pending against you? |

# Unit 2: N-400 Interview Practice

## Lesson 2.10: Loyalty and the Oath

### Loyalty to the U.S. – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **support** | believe in and defend | Do you support the Constitution and form of government of the United States? |
| **oath** | a serious promise | The Oath of Allegiance is a promise to be loyal to the United States. |
| **willing to** | agree to do something | Are you willing to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States? |
| **bear arms** | to go to war and fight | Are you willing to bear arms for the United States? |
| **noncombatant services** | to do other types of work in the military other than fight a war | Are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. armed forces? |
| **work of national importance** | help with a major emergency like a fire, flood, or earthquake | If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance? |
| **under civilian direction** | follow the orders of non-military safety officers, for example, disaster relief workers from the Red Cross | Are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction? |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.2: U.S. Geography

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **border** | a division between two places | The border between Canada and the U.S. is the longest international border in the world between two countries. |
| **coast** | where land meets an ocean or sea | The first colonists lived along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. |
| **river** | a large body of water that goes into an ocean or lake | The Mississippi River and the Missouri River are the longest rivers in the U.S. |
| **territory** | a country that is part of the United States, but it is not a state. | There are five major U.S. territories. |
| **capital** | the location of a state’s or country’s government | Each state or territory has its own capital. |
| **east** | the direction where the sun rises; on the right side of a person facing north | Washington, D.C. and New York City are on the east coast of the United States. |
| **west** | the direction where the sun sets; on the left side of a person facing north | The Pacific Ocean is on the West Coast of the United States. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.3: Early America

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **colonists** | people from different countries who lived in the original 13 British colonies | Colonists came to America for an opportunity for a better life. |
| **reason** | an explanation of why someone does, thinks, or says something | One reason colonists came to America was because they wanted political liberty. |
| **religious freedom** | people can practice any religion or choose not to practice a religion | Many colonists came to America looking for religious freedom. |
| **tribes** | a group of people or families with the same language, customs and beliefs | There are many different tribes of Native American Indians. |
| **slaves** | someone who is legally owned by another person and has to work for that person without pay | The slaves had to work and had no personal freedom. |
| **sold** | past tense of the verb to sell, to exchange something for money | People from Africa were taken to America and sold as slaves. |
| **taxes** | money that a government requires people to pay | American colonists were angry about taxes they had to pay to Britain. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.4: The Declaration of Independence

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **declaration** | an official announcement or statement | The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. |
| **liberty** | freedom; not being controlled by anyone | Liberty is a basic right of all people. |
| **representative** | a person chosen to speak and make decisions for a group of people | Representatives from the 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence. |
| **pursuit** | trying to achieve or to get something | Thomas Jefferson wrote that all people have a fundamental right to the pursuit of happiness. |
| **rights** | things that you are legally or morally allowed to do | The Declaration of Independence says that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are fundamental rights. |
| **adopt** | to accept, to begin to use | The flag, with 13 stripes and 13 stars, was adopted in 1777. |
| **stripes** | long, thin lines of color | The United States flag has 13 red and white stripes. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.5: The Constitution

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **supreme** | most important or highest | The Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. |
| **Constitution** | the document that created the U.S. government | The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787. |
| **convention** | a large meeting of many people to discuss something | Representatives from 12 states met at the Constitutional Convention to discuss a new government. |
| **law** | a rule made by the government | The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States. |
| **set up** | to create something and organize it | The representatives discussed how to set up a new government for all the states. |
| **define** | to explain and describe something clearly | The Constitution defines the government. |
| **support** | to agree with or approve something | The people support the idea of self-government. |
| **government** | a group of people who control and make decisions for a country | The government creates the laws of a country. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.6: The Bill of Rights and Other Amendments

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **amendment** | a change, especially to a law | Over the years, the government has added many amendments to the Constitution. |
| **The Bill of Rights** | the first 10 amendments to the Constitution | The Bill of Rights protects some basic rights and limits government power. |
| **freedom of speech** | the right to say what you think, even if you disagree with the government | One amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives all Americans the freedom of speech. |
| **freedom of religion** | the right to choose any religion, or to choose no religion | Freedom of religion means that the government cannot control people’s beliefs. |
| **freedom of the press** | the right to independent news that is not controlled by the government | Freedom of the press means that the government does not control the news. |
| **practice a religion** | to have a religion that is part of your life and to follow its habits and rules | They practice their religion by praying and thanking God. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.7: The 1800s and Civil War

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **slavery** | owning people; making people work with no pay | Slavery became illegal after the Civil War in the United States. |
| **Civil War** | a war between people in the same country | The United States fought the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. |
| **economic** | relating to money and profit | The South wanted to keep slavery for economic reasons. |
| **Emancipation Proclamation** | an announcement that all the slaves are free  emancipation = freedom proclamation = announcement | Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves in the South. |
| **led to** | past tense of 'lead to'; caused, made something else happen | The Civil War led to the end of slavery. |
| **preserve** | save; keep something the same | Abraham Lincoln wanted to preserve the Union and not allow the Southern states to become independent. |
| **anthem** | an official song | The national anthem of the United States is "The Star-Spangled Banner.” |
| **Star-Spangled Banner** | the American flag  star-spangled = decorated with shiny stars banner = flag | The American flag is called “The Star-Spangled Banner.” |
| **freed** | past tense of the verb to free; made or set free, given liberty | Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.8: The Difficult Times and Great Leaders Since 1900

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **during** | throughout the entire time of something | Woodrow Wilson was president during World War I. |
| **attacked** | past tense of the verb “to attack”; to try to hurt, injure, or destroy | New York City was attacked in 2001 by terrorists. |
| **The Great Depression** | a very bad economic time in the 1930’s when many people lost their jobs and homes | During the Great Depression many people had no money, food or home because they lost their jobs. |
| **economy** | the system of how people make and spend money in a country or region | The economy of the U.S was very weak during the Great Depression. |
| **capitalist** | a type of economy where people can own property and businesses and can make money | The United States has a capitalist economy. |
| **communism** | a type of government that owns most of the property and controls business | The United States wanted to stop communism in Vietnam. |
| **The Cold War** | a time of nonviolent tension and conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1947 - 1991 | Communism was the main concern of the U.S. during the Cold War. |
| **concern** | to feel worry about something or someone | Finding jobs was a big concern during the 1930s. |
| **event** | something important or notable that happens | The terrorist attack on New York City was a shocking event Americans will never forget. |
| **terrorists** | people who use violent acts to achieve political goals | On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.9: Fighting for Equal Rights

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **assembly** | a meeting or coming together of people for a specific reason | Freedom of assembly means that groups of people can meet in public to talk about ideas freely. |
| **petition** | to formally ask the government to do something or change something | We can petition the government for changes to the law. |
| **civil rights** | the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality | The Constitution and the Bill of Rights protect our civil rights in this country. |
| **movement** | a group of people who work together for a purpose they believe in | There is an international movement to support women’s rights. |
| **racial discrimination** | treating a person or group of people unfairly because of their skin color or ethnicity | The Civil Rights Movement tried to end racial discrimination in the United States. |
| **equality** | having the same conditions, rights, and opportunities for all people; being equal | Martin Luther King, Jr. worked for equality for all Americans. |
| **fought** | past tense of the verb 'fight'; worked very hard for or against something | Women fought for the right to vote by protesting and marching in the streets. |
| **vote** | to choose a person or plan you support in an election | Every four years, the American people vote to elect a president. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.10: Our System of Government

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **branch** | a part of a larger organization | The United States has three main branches of government. |
| **obey** | to do what the rules or laws say you must do | to do what the rules or laws say you must do |
| **legislative** | relating to making laws | The legislative part of the U.S. government is Congress, where laws are made. |
| **executive** | responsible for managing the affairs of the country and for making sure laws are carried out | The President belongs to the executive branch of the U.S. government. |
| **judicial** | part of the government that explains laws and finds solutions to conflicts | The judicial branch of the government explains the laws under the Constitution. |
| **separation of powers** | dividing control between 3 parts of government; giving each part different powers | The separation of powers in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches make sure one part does not have complete control of the nation. |
| **checks and balances** | all three branches of government can stop one branch from having too much power | The three parts of the U.S. government act as checks and balances to make sure one part doesn’t have too much power. |
| **party** | a political organization of people who have similar ideas and thoughts | The two main parties in the U.S. are the Republican and Democratic parties. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.11: The Executive Branch

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **executive branch** | the branch of government that makes sure laws are followed | The executive branch is one of the 3 branches of the U.S. government. |
| **President** | the leader of the executive branch of the United States | Joe Biden is the current President of the United States. |
| **in charge of** | in control of, the leader of | The person in charge of the executive branch of government is the president. |
| **Vice President** | the most important advisor to the president | Kamala Harris is the current Vice President. |
| **cabinet** | a group of people who help the president run the government | There are 15 people on the President’s Cabinet. |
| **vetoes** | when a president says “no” to a law; refuses to sign a bill | Sometimes, the president vetoes bills. |
| **no longer serve** | cannot do the job | The Vice President leads the country if the President can no longer serve. |
| **position** | a job | The Secretary of State is a Cabinet-level position. |
| **advises** | gives advice, helps | A teacher advises the student. |
| **bill** | a proposed law; a law before it is officially signed and approved | The president signs bills to become laws. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.12: The Legislative Branch

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **Congress** | The Senate and the House of Representatives | The two parts of Congress work together to make laws. |
| **represent** | to speak and act for other people | The members of the House of Representatives represent the people from their states. |
| **elect** | to select someone for a job by voting | In the U.S., citizens elect representatives to work in the government. |
| **senator** | a person elected to represent their state in the Senate | Each state has two U.S. senators. |
| **population** | the number of people living in a place | The population of the U.S. is over 320 million. |
| **serve (in a political office)** | to work as an elected or appointed government official | Members of the House of Representatives serve for 2 years after each election. |
| **Speaker of the House** | the leader of the House of Representatives | The current Speaker of the House is Nancy Pelosi. |
| **voting member** | a person in a group who is allowed to vote and make decisions | There are 435 voting members in the House of Representatives. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.13: The Judicial Branch

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **court** | an official group of people who listen and make decisions about legal cases | The Supreme Court is the highest court of the judicial branch. |
| **justice** | a judge on the Supreme Court | There are 9 justices on the Supreme Court. |
| **Chief Justice** | the leader of the judicial branch | The current Chief Justice of the United States is John Roberts. |
| **resolve** | to find a solution or an answer to a problem | The judicial branch resolves problems and disagreements. |
| **dispute** | an argument or disagreement | The courts can resolve a dispute. |
| **legal** | allowed by the law, permitted by law | It is legal for a U.S. citizen to vote for president. |
| **federal** | the central government | The federal government is located in Washington, D.C. |
| **above the law** | not needing to follow the law | Everyone in the United States must follow the law; no one is above the law. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.14: Participating in Your Government

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **democracy** | a kind of government in which people choose their representatives and leaders by voting | The government of the United States is a democracy. |
| **participate** | to be active and do something; to join other people in action | People in the United States have many opportunities to participate in democracy. |
| **candidate** | a person who is trying to become an elected official | The two main candidates for president debate before the election. |
| **major** | very important or big | There are only two major political parties in the United States – Democratic and Republican. |
| **issue** | an important subject or topic that many people are concerned about | Homelessness is a major issue in some large cities. |
| **oppose (an issue)** | to disagree or argue against something | If you oppose the new law, please call your senator to explain your reasons. |
| **governor** | the leader of the executive branch of each state government | The governor, the most important political leader in the state, works in the state capitol building. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.15: Rights and Responsibilities

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **election** | the event when people vote to choose leaders | The next Presidential election will be in November. |
| **income tax** | money you must pay to the government based on how much money you get from working | The last day to pay your income tax is on April 15th. |
| **jury** | a group of people in a court who listen to a case and decide if someone is guilty or not | Many citizens are selected to serve on a jury at least once. |
| **register** | to put your name on an official list | He registered for the Selective Service when he turned 18. |
| **run for office** | to try to be elected as a government representative | She’s running for office because she wants to improve her city government. |
| **serve (in the military / on a jury)** | spend time doing an important job that helps your country or other people | Have you ever served in the military? |
| **oath** | a serious promise | He took an oath in court to tell the truth. |
| **loyal** | faithful; supporting a government, country, company or person | New citizens promise to be loyal to the United States and to give up loyalty to other countries. |

# Unit 3: Civics, Reading, and Writing Practice

## Lesson 3.16: American Symbols and Holidays

### Civics – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **symbol** | an object that represents an idea or quality | The bald eagle is a symbol of America. |
| **stand for** | to represent an idea or quality | The 50 stars on the American flag stand for the 50 states of the country. |
| **statue** | a piece of art, usually made from stone or metal | The Statue of Liberty represents freedom and a better life for immigrants. |
| **honor** | treat with respect | On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we honor Martin Luther King Jr. and his fight for civil rights. |
| **loyalty** | total support and respect for something | Americans show loyalty to the United States by respecting the flag. |
| **Pledge of Allegiance** | a serious promise to support and respect the United States | Many American students say the Pledge of Allegiance at school every morning. |

# Unit 4: Your Interview and New Citizenship

## Lesson 4.1: Arriving at Your Interview

### Going Through Security – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **take off / remove** | You’ll need to take off your jacket. | Please remove your belt. |
| **tray** | Put your cell phone in the tray. | Place your keys and wallet in the tray. |
| **pocket** | You may need to take everything out of your pockets. | Please empty your pockets. |
| **metal** | Metal items, like keys and coins, should not go through the machine. | You need to remove anything metal from your pockets. |
| **wallet** | The security officers may ask you to take out your wallet. | Take your wallet out of your pocket. |
| **purse / bag / handbag** | Please open your purse. | We need to look through your bag. |
| **step aside** | move out of the line | Please step aside. |
| **step through / walk through** | come through the metal detector | Please walk through the metal detector. |
| **go back** | return (go through the metal detector again) | Please go back. You need to go through again. |

# Unit 4: Your Interview and New Citizenship

## Lesson 4.1: Arriving at Your Interview

### Directions in a Building – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **floor** | Some government buildings have many floors. | Go to the 10th floor. |
| **upstairs / downstairs** | one or more floors up or down | The restrooms are upstairs. |
| **left / straight /right** | Turn right. | The waiting room is on the right. |
| **elevator** | Take the elevator to the 6th floor. | The elevators are on the left. |
| **down the hall** | The waiting room is just down the hall. | The elevators are down the hall on the left. |
| **counter / window / desk** | Present your form to the person at the counter. | Give your appointment letter to the person at the customer service desk before you sit down. |

# Unit 4: Your Interview and New Citizenship

## Lesson 4.1: Arriving at Your Interview

### In the Waiting Room – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **bring** | Did you bring your interview notice? | You can bring someone to wait with you, but you need special permission to bring anyone into the interview. |
| **take a seat / have a seat / be seated** | sit down | Please take a seat over there. |
| **until** | Wait until 10:10. Then go upstairs. | Please wait until your name is called. |
| **appointment** | the date and time of your interview | When is your interview appointment? |
| **show** | present or allow someone to see | Show me your interview appointment letter. |
| **follow** | Follow the officer to the interview room. | Please follow me. |
| **belongings** | things you have with you, like a bag or a coat | Feel free to put your belongings next to your chair. |

# Unit 4: Your Interview and New Citizenship

## Lesson 4.3: Starting Your Interview

### Swearing In – Learn Key Words

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Sentence** |
| **remain standing** | Don’t sit down. | Please remain standing. |
| **raise your right hand** | You raise your right hand to show that you are making a serious promise. | Please raise your right hand. |
| **swear or affirm** | promise | Do you swear or affirm that the statements you will give today will be the truth? |
| **the whole truth** | You will not leave out important information. |  |
| **nothing but the truth** | Everything you say will be true. |  |