



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 <i>child</i>	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.
veto	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.	