ENGLISH TEST · READING AND WRITING

# The official reading and writing vocabulary

Every word USCIS may use in the reading and writing portions of the English test, grouped the way the official list groups it, plus the sentence patterns the officer dictates.

**How this part works:** the officer shows you up to three sentences and you must read one of them correctly out loud, then dictates up to three sentences and you must write one of them correctly. Every word comes from the lists below — nothing else appears. Spelling and capitalisation mistakes are forgiven as long as the officer can still read the word you meant; a missing or extra word is not. An accent is not a mistake.

## The reading vocabulary

A shorter list than the writing one, with question words in it, because the sentences the officer shows you are mostly questions.

### PEOPLE

| | |
|---|---|
| Abraham Lincoln | George Washington |

### CIVICS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| American flag | Congress | right |
| Bill of Rights | country | Senators |
| capital | Father of Our Country | state/states |
| citizen | government | White House |
| city | President | |

### PLACES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| America | United States | U.S. |

### HOLIDAYS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Presidents' Day | Independence Day | Thanksgiving |
| Memorial Day | Labor Day | |
| Flag Day | Columbus Day | |

### QUESTION WORDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| How | When | Who |
| What | Where | Why |

### VERBS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| can | have/has | name |
| come | is/are/was/be | pay |
| do/does | lives/lived | vote |
| elects | meet | want |

### SMALL WORDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a | in | the |
| for | of | to |
| here | on | we |

OTHER WORDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| colors | many | people |
| dollar bill | most | second |
| first | north | south |
| largest | one | |

## Sentences of the shape you will be shown

1. Who was the first President?
2. What is the capital of the United States?
3. Where is the White House?
4. Why do people want to come to America?
5. Who elects Congress?
6. What is the largest state?
7. Who lives in the White House?
8. When is Flag Day?
9. What is Presidents' Day?
10. Why do we have a Congress?
11. Who can vote?
12. What colors are on the American flag?
13. How many states are in the United States?
14. Who is the President of the United States?
15. What is the Bill of Rights?
16. When is Thanksgiving?
17. What is one right of citizens?
18. Who was the Father of Our Country?
19. Who is George Washington?
20. How many Senators do we have?

## The writing vocabulary

A different, longer list. Months and the verb forms matter here in a way they do not for reading, because you have to spell them.

PEOPLE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Adams | Lincoln | Washington |

CIVICS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| American Indians | Father of Our Country | right |
| capital | flag | Senators |
| citizens | free | state/states |
| Civil War | freedom of speech | White House |
| Congress | President | |

PLACES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alaska | Delaware | United States |
| California | Mexico | Washington |
| Canada | New York City | Washington, D.C. |

MONTHS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| February | July | November |
| May | September | |
| June | October | |

HOLIDAYS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Presidents' Day | Independence Day | Thanksgiving |
| Memorial Day | Labor Day | |
| Flag Day | Columbus Day | |

VERBS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| can | is/was/be | vote |
| come | lives/lived | want |
| elect | meets | |
| have/has | pay | |

OTHER WORDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| blue | most | red |
| dollar bill | north | second |
| fifty/50 | one | south |
| first | one hundred/100 | taxes |
| largest | people | white |

## Sentences built from it

The officer's dictated sentences are short and use only the words above. These are twenty of the same shape — have someone read one out while you write it, then check it word by word.

1. [object Object]
2. [object Object]
3. [object Object]
4. [object Object]
5. [object Object]
6. [object Object]
7. [object Object]
8. [object Object]
9. [object Object]
10. [object Object]
11. [object Object]
12. [object Object]
13. [object Object]
14. [object Object]
15. [object Object]
16. [object Object]
17. [object Object]
18. [object Object]
19. [object Object]
20. [object Object]

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