

Vocabulary Work

Listening: Part 1

Listening: Part 2



The Electoral College

Translation

Questions for Discussion

Kursk State University, 2006

Sponsored by the English Language Office, U.S. Embassy, Moscow, Russia

Vocabulary Work

Listening: Part 1

Listening: Part 2



The Electoral College

Translation

Questions for Discussion

[Return to the previous activity](#)

Match the English and Russian Equivalents

избирательный бюллетень

to hold elections

to vote

to elect

college

candidate

ballot

elector

representative

to support

to reject



Match the English and Russian Equivalents

КОЛЛЕГИЯ

to hold elections

to vote

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college

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избиратель

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коллегия

бюллетень



Match the English and Russian Equivalents

голосовать

to hold elections

to vote

to elect

college

candidate

ballot

elector

representative

to support

to reject

коллегия

бюллетень

избиратель



Match the English and Russian Equivalents

отклонить

to hold elections

to vote

to elect

college

candidate

ballot

elector

representative

to support

to reject

голосовать

коллегия

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отклонить



Match the English and Russian Equivalents

поддержать

to hold elections

to vote

to elect

college

candidate

ballot

elector

representative

to support

to reject

голосовать

избирать

коллегия

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Match the English and Russian Equivalents

проводить выборы

to hold elections

to vote

to elect

college

candidate

ballot

elector

representative

to support

to reject

голосовать

избирать

коллегия

бюллетень

избиратель

поддержать

отклонить



Match the English and Russian Equivalents

представитель

to hold elections

проводить выборы

to vote

голосовать

to elect

избирать

college

коллегия

candidate

ballot

бюллетень

elector

избиратель

representative

to support

поддержать

to reject

отклонить



Match the English and Russian Equivalents

кандидат

to hold elections

проводить выборы

to vote

голосовать

to elect

избирать

college

коллегия

candidate

ballot

бюллетень

elector

избиратель

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to reject

отклонить



Well done!

to hold elections

проводить выборы

to vote

голосовать

to elect

избирать

college

коллегия

candidate

кандидат

ballot

бюллетень

elector

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representative

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отклонить



Read about the Senate and the House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is the larger of the two houses of Congress. The 435 members of the House - generally known as Congressmen and Congresswomen - serve two-year terms, as compared to the six-year term of senators. The presiding member, the Speaker of the House, is elected by a majority vote of the members of the House at the beginning of each new Congress. House members each represent approximately half a million citizens in their "districts". The number of districts per state is determined each decade by a proportional allocation based on the federal census.



The Senate is generally considered to be the upper house of the United States Congress. The Senate has 100 elected members, two from each state, serving six-year terms with one-third of the seats coming up for election every two years. The vice-president serves as the presiding officer over the Senate, although he does not serve on any committees and is restricted to voting only in the event of a tie.

Listen to the First Part of the Radio Program and Get Ready to Answer the Questions

1. Do Americans vote directly for the president and vice president?
2. Who was the idea of the Electoral College borrowed from?
3. Where does the term “college” come from?
4. What does it mean?
5. Does the U.S. constitution use the term “Electoral College”?
6. What is the number of electors in each state?
7. Which state has the highest number of electoral votes?
8. What is the total amount of votes in the Electoral College?
9. How many votes does a candidate have to win to become president?

START



ba me ne
ck nu xt

Choose the most suitable variant

During the presidential elections, Americans vote _____.

a. directly for the candidates

b. for the candidates' representatives

c. for the elected officials

d. for no one in particular



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The idea of the Electoral College was borrowed from the ancient _____.

- a. Roman Empire
- b. Anglo-Saxons
- c. peoples
- d. empires



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It can mean _____ who act together for a common purpose.

- a. voters
- b. any group of people
- c. electors
- d. candidates for president and vice president



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- a. often
- b. seldom
- c. never



GOOD GOING!

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The number of electors in each state equals the number of representatives and senators that the state has in _____.

- a. Congress b. the Parliament c. the government d. the White House



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This depends on (the) _____.

- a. economy b. size c. population d. climate



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_____ has the most – fifty-five.

- a. Colorado b. California c. Washington d. Texas f. New York



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Choose the most suitable variant

In all, there are _____ hundred thirty-eight votes in the Electoral College.

- a. one b. two c. three d. four e. five



Choose the most suitable variant

In all, there are _____ hundred thirty-eight votes in the Electoral College.

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To become president, a candidate must win more than _____.

- a. one-third b. half c. two-thirds d. three-fourths



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That's Great !

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Read the Script of Part One and Choose the Most Suitable Word in Each Case

When Americans (electWhen Americans (elect, chooseWhen Americans (elect, choose, voteWhen Americans (elect, choose, vote, think) for president and vice president next Tuesday, their votes will not go to the candidates. Instead, Americans vote for electors to (present, reproduce, represent) them in what is known as the Electoral College.

The founders of the nation (think, thought, had thought) appointed representatives should make the choice. They saw this as a compromise between having Congress elect a president and having the (people, electors, candidates) do it directly. They (loaned, lent, borrowed) an idea from the ancient Holy Roman Empire. Back then, a number of (princess, prince's, princes) of German states acted as electors of the king.

The (phrase, term, verb) "college" comes from Latin. It can mean any group of people who (act, do, work, win) together for a common purpose. The Constitution talks (after, about, on, over) "electors," but never uses the term "electoral college." Yet Americans (are, have being, were) calling it that by the early 1800s.

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The number of electors in each state (rates, takes, equals) the number of representatives and senators that the state (gives, has, takes) in Congress. This depends on population. So, states with more people have more electoral votes. California has the most – 55.

In all, there (were, are, is) five hundred thirty-eight votes in the Electoral College. To become president, a candidate must (win, won, wen) more than half, or at least two hundred seventy. If there is a tie, the election would be (elected, decided, voted) in the House of Representatives.

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Read the Script of Part One and Choose the Most Suitable Option in Each Case

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The number of electors in each state (rates, takes, equals) the number of representatives and senators that the state (gives, has, takes) in Congress. This depends on population. So, states with more people have more electoral votes. California has the most – 55.

In all, there (were, are, is) five hundred thirty-eight votes in the Electoral College. To become president, a candidate must (win, won, wen) more than half, or at least two hundred seventy. If there is a tie, the election would be (elected)
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In all, there (were, are, is) five

Right !

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In all, there (were, are, is) five hundred thirty-eight votes in the Electoral College. To become president, a candidate must (win, won, wen) more than half, or at least two hundred seventy. If there is a tie, the election would be (elected, decided, voted) in the House of Representatives.

Before you hear the second part of the program, try to guess if the following statements are true or false

1. The candidate with the most popular votes in a state usually wins all the electoral votes in that state.
2. Federal law requires electors to vote for the candidate who won the most votes in their state.
3. In 2000, Al Gore received half a million votes fewer than George W. Bush.
4. Critics of the Electoral College system call it undemocratic, difficult to understand and dangerous to the political system.
5. There have been very few proposals in Congress to reform the Electoral College.
6. It is very difficult to make changes in the U.S. Constitution.

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START

Determine, whether the following statements are true or false

1. The candidate with the most popular votes in a state usually wins all the electoral votes in that state. (true(true – false)

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Determine, whether the following statements are true or false

1. The candidate with the most popular votes in a state usually wins all the electoral votes in that state. **true**
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4. Critics of the Electoral College system call it undemocratic, difficult to understand and dangerous to the political system . (true(true - false))

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Very Good !

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Now read the script of part two and match the beginning of each sentence with its end

In general, the candidate with the most popular votes in a state wins

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for the next four years.

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a winner-takes-all system.

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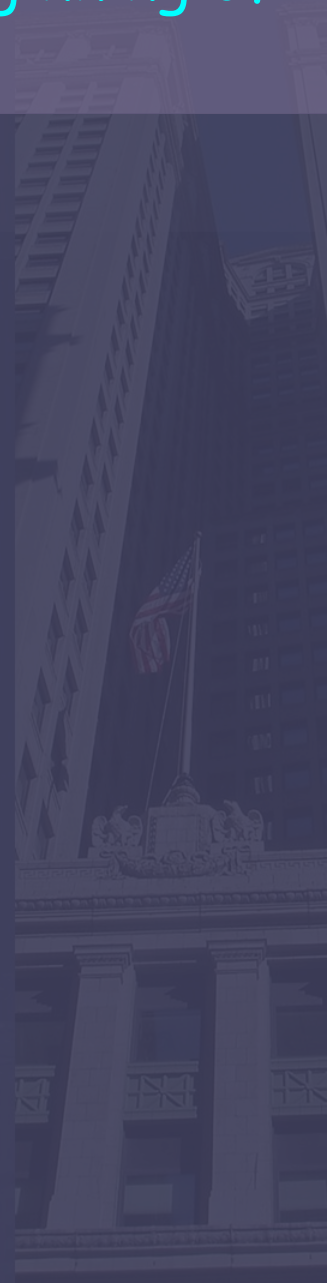
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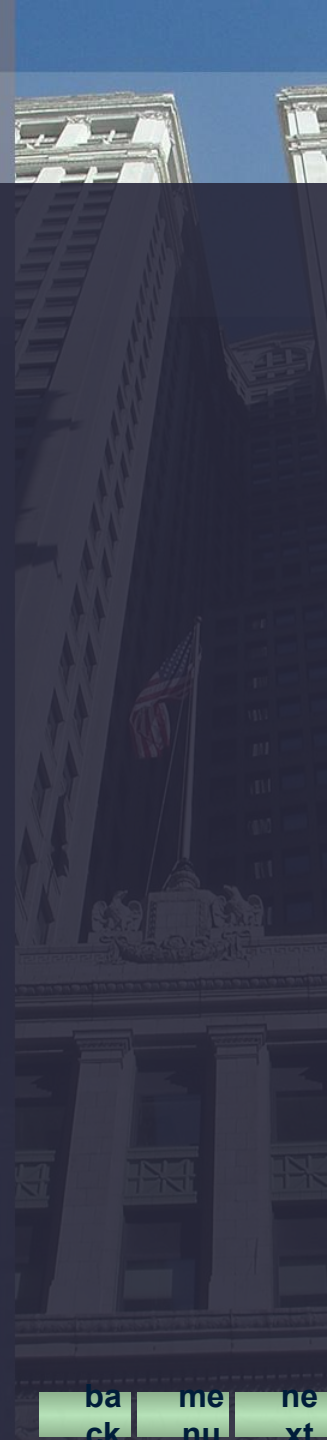
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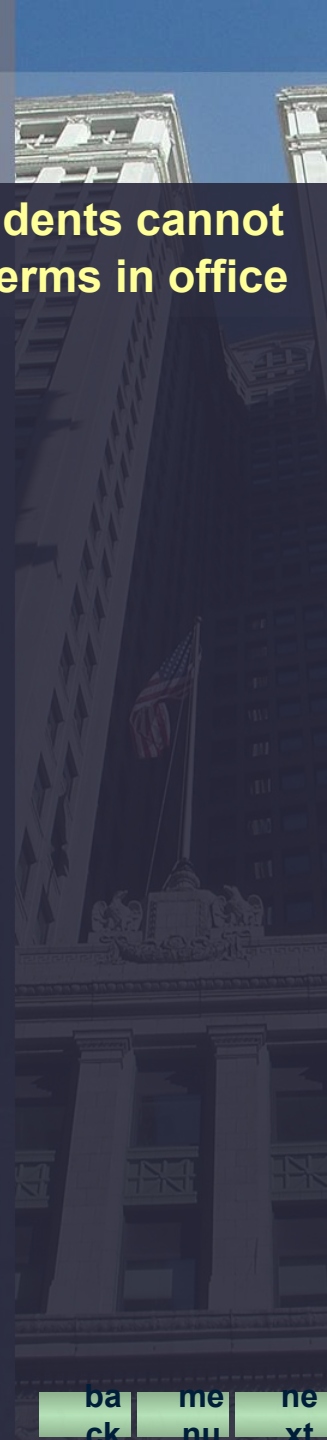


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Нигде в Конституции США не говорится о том, на сколько сроков может переизбираться президент.

Why American presidents cannot serve more than two terms in office



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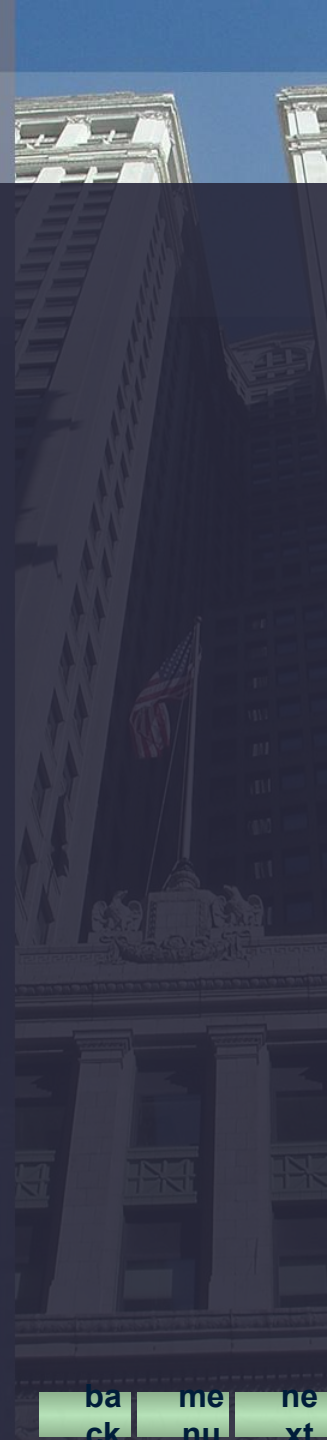
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Get ready to discuss in class

1. Do the people in your country vote for the president directly? Or do they vote for representatives who will later elect the president?
2. What are the possible merits and drawbacks of each election system?
3. Do you agree that the duration of presidential term should be limited?
4. Make a list of requirements which a candidate for president must meet. Explain your choice.

This is the end of the self-study lesson. Thank you!



Try again



ba
ck

Wrong



ba
ck

You 're mistaken



ba
ck

Not correct



ba
ck