

TEACHER

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Useful Vocabulary for the US Election | Trump vs Biden 2020

In case you haven't heard, there's a presidential election coming up in the United States. Donald Trump and the Republicans are squaring off against Joe Biden and the Democrats. The stakes are high and there's sure to be a lot of drama leading up to election day. Therefore, I want to teach you some useful words to help you better understand the US election, especially how it works. Because presidential elections in the US are a bit different, and the way it works may even seem a bit strange.

Here are the words and phrases from the lesson in case you would like to review :

- 1) apolitical - not connected to a political party
- 2) two-party-system - when two parties dominate politics
- 3) independent - a voter who is not registered with a political party
- 4) moderate - someone who does not have extreme views
- 5) primary - when voters chose who will be the candidate for that party
- 6) cast (one's) ballot - to vote
- 7) popular vote - the total number of votes a candidate receives
- 8) Electoral College - a group of people, electors, who cast votes for the election of president
- 9) winner-take-all - all the votes from one state will go to the candidate who wins
- 10) partisan - strongly supporting a person or party without considering the matter carefully
- 11) amend - to change or alter something
- 12) red state - state that strongly supports Republicans
- 13) blue state - state that strongly supports Democrats
- 14) purple state - state with a mix of Democrat and Republican support
- 15) swing state - state whose votes could go to either the Democrats or Republicans
- 16) battleground state - means the same as swing state
- 17) lean left - state that is more likely to vote for the Democrats
- 18) lean right - state that is more likely to vote for the Republicans
- 19) fundraise - to collect money for a particular purpose
- 20) campaign - an organized political group trying to achieve a particular aim
- 21) PAC / Super PAC - an organization that raises money privately to influence elections
- 22) civic duty - the responsibilities of citizens of a country
- 23) civil discourse - conversations concerning ordinary citizens
- 24) head to the polls - to go vote at a polling location
- 25) absentee ballot - when someone requests a ballot from election officials and votes by mail
- 26) mail-in-voting - when election ballots are sent to all registered voters in the state
- 27) rigged - to dishonestly arrange something to achieve a desired outcome
- 28) voter suppression - when people are not allowed to vote or discouraged from voting
- 29) concede - to admit, often unwillingly, that something is true
- 30) contest an election - when the validity of the results is challenged by the losing candidate

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Complete with words/phrases from the list at the bottom

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absentee ballot / amend / apolitical / battleground state / blue state / campaign / cast one's ballot / civic duty / civil discourse / concede / contest an election / Electoral College / fundraise / head to the polls / lean left / lean right / mail-in-voting / moderate / PAC or Super PAC / partisan / popular vote / primary / purple state / red state / rigged / swing state / two-party-system / independent / voter suppression / winner-take-all