US ELECTION VICTORY FOR BIDEN AND HARRIS

Source: Reuters

1 Warm up

Joe Biden, president, and Kamala Harris, vice-president, have won the 2020 US elections.

1. How does Joe Biden look in the photo at the top of the page? Why do you think he looks like this?
2. Have you been following the US election? Why/not?
3. What do you know about Joe Biden and Kamala Harris?

2 Read for main idea

You are going to read a news article about the US election. Before you read the article, choose the best option to complete these sentences. Then read the article to check your ideas.

1. The election was held on the 3 November and the results were announced **the next day / after 4 days / after 7 days.**
2. Biden received **less than / exactly / more than** 50% of the votes.
3. Biden has **almost 50 / less than 30 / exactly 8** years of political experience.
4. There are **two / three / four** important "firsts" in Harris' election as vice-president.
5. Biden and Harris start their new positions **immediately / a few days / a few weeks** after the election.

Are you surprised by any of the information you read in the article?

Biden and Harris take the White House

A historic election for the US.

1. After days of uncertainty, the Democratic party **candidate** Joe Biden has been declared the winner of the US presidential election, which was held on 3 November. The results of the election were finally announced on Saturday, 7 November.
2. The **race** was very close, and Biden's **victory** was not as big as experts had predicted; he has just over 50% of **the popular vote**. However, he has secured the necessary number of votes from **key** states like Pennsylvania, Arizona and Michigan.
3. **Voter turnout** was high, with many Americans voting by mail because of the coronavirus pandemic. Biden's main support came from women, African Americans, white voters with college degrees and the populations of large cities. He received more individual votes than any other presidential candidate in the country's history.
4. Biden has 47 years of experience in politics, including 30 years as a senator and, more significantly, serving as vice-president under Barack Obama from 2009-2017. He has been aiming for the White House since 1987. His running mate, vice-president-elect Kamala Harris is not only the first woman to achieve this position, she is also the first African American and the first Asian American to do so. Harris was elected Senator for the state of California in 2017 and has experience in state government as district attorney.
5. Biden's **campaign** promised a change of direction for the country. He plans to continue fighting the coronavirus pandemic, fix the country's economy and reduce the political divide in the US. The country has seen more than 230,000 deaths from Covid 19, while millions of Americans have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. Biden will improve testing for the virus and listen carefully to what scientific experts advise.
6. Meanwhile, Donald Trump **disputes** the results of the election and is planning legal action. He has not produced any **evidence** of voter **fraud** so far. Biden and Harris take office on 20 January, 2021.

3 Vocabulary

Find words/phrases in bold in the article that match these meanings.

Set 1

1. _____ : a person who is competing in an election
2. _____ : information or documents that show what really happened
3. _____ : important, necessary for success
4. _____ : an attempt to win something
5. _____ : an occasion when someone wins a competition, game or war

Set 2

1. _____ : a set of planned activities which are intended to lead to a successful result in politics, business or war
2. _____ : disagrees with some information, claims that something has not happened in the correct way
3. _____ : dishonest actions which result in receiving power or money
4. _____ : election results which show how most people in a country voted
5. _____ : the percentage or number of people who actually voted in an election, compared to the number who are legally able to vote

Which words from this exercise are often also used in these contexts? There are two answers for every topic.

a. business:

b. war:

c. crime:

d. sports:

4 Read for detail

Read the article again and decide if the information in these sentences is true (T), false (F) or not given (NG). Find the information in the article that supports your answer.

1. Biden received a record number of votes.
2. Biden only decided to run for president recently.
3. Harris does not have a lot of experience in national politics.
4. The United States has experienced the highest number of deaths from Covid 19 in the world.
5. Donald Trump's legal actions are likely to be successful.

5 Talking point

1. Do you think Joe Biden, at 77, is too old to be the president?
2. Why do you think Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris as his vice-president? Give as many reasons as you can think of.
3. The voter turnout in the US is usually around 55-60%. In the 2020 election it was much higher – possibly as high as 72%. Why do you think turnout was higher in 2020? Do you think voter turnout in your country is usually higher or lower than in the US?
4. Will you be watching Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on TV when they take office on 20 January, 2021? Why/not?