

Headway: Inside the White House

What do you know about the White House? Do you think these sentences are true (✓) or false (X)?

- 1 The White House is more than 200 years old. ✓
- 2 No one lives in the White House.
- 3 All the rooms are government offices.
- 4 The Oval Office is where the President works. ✓
- 5 The White House is open to the public.
- 6 There are a lot of things for a president to do in his free time.

Find the numbers in the text. What do they refer to?

50 – There are fifty states.

50	304 million	6,000	132	35	five	six	140
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304 million.....

6.000.....

132.....

35.....

five.....

six.....

140.....

Read the text.

Inside the White House



The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC, is the most famous address in America. It is where the United States President works, but it is also his private home where he lives with his family. He has children's birthday parties, holiday dinners, and weddings in this world-famous building.

The building

First built in 1800, **the White House is where the President of the United States governs** a country of 50 states and 304 million people.

He lives with his family on the second and third floors.

There are 16 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a dining room. Special guests stay in the Queen's Bedroom or the Lincoln Bedroom.

In the West Wing are the staff offices. The President's own office, the Oval Office, is also there. It has three large windows behind the President's desk, and there is a fireplace at the other end.



Each new president chooses new curtains, new furniture, and a special new carpet. There are pictures of old presidents on the wall, and there is the famous desk, a gift from the British Queen Victoria in 1880.

The White House day by day

The White House is open to visitors. It is free. About 6,000 people a day visit. The President meets special guests in the East Room, and he talks to journalists in the Press Room.

About 150 people work for the President in the West Wing and for the First Lady in the East Wing. Another 100 people look after the building day and night.

There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and five kitchens, all on six floors. There are three elevators*. The State Dining Room is big enough for 140 guests.

Outside, gardeners grow fruit and vegetables. There is also a tennis court, a jogging track, and a swimming pool. Inside there is a movie theater*, a billiard room, a bowling alley, and a library. As former President Reagan said, 'The White House is like an eight-star hotel!'

* **elevator** (US English) = lift

* **movie theatre** (US English) = cinema

