



4.30



Welcome to the White House!

In 1789, George Washington became the first President ¹ _____ the United States. Two years later, he chose this place to build the President's house. Unfortunately, Washington died before ² _____ house was ready, so the first person to live there was the second President, John Adams. He moved ³ _____ the house with his wife, Abigail, in 1800. Since then, every President has lived there.

Over the years, there have been many changes. The British set fire to the house in 1814 during a war between the two countries. Three years ⁴ _____, President Monroe organised the repairs. In 1901, President Roosevelt named the house the 'White House' and the next year, he started a programme to modernise it. This included building a new part of the house: the West Wing. ⁵ _____ 1909, William Taft created the Oval Office in the West Wing, and this has been the President's office since then.

The White House has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, eight staircases, three lifts, a swimming pool, a tennis court, a jogging track and a private cinema. It receives 30,000 visitors ⁶ _____ week. While it is the home of the US president and his (or her) family, the White House is also a museum of American history.

1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs or small groups. Who lives in this building? In which country and city is it?

2 **USE OF ENGLISH** Read the White House information sheet. Choose the correct words to complete the text.

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| 1 a of | b at | c for |
| 2 a a | b some | c the |
| 3 a in | b into | c onto |
| 4 a more | b later | c then |
| 5 a At | b On | c In |
| 6 a a | b the | c one |

3 Read through the information again and answer the questions.

- Who decided where to build the White House?
- Who was the first President to live in the White House?
- When did people start calling it the White House?
- How long has the Oval Office been the President's office?
- What sports facilities has the White House got?
- How many people visit the White House each week?

4 **VOCABULARY** Match the words below with 1–7 in the picture.

ceiling clock fireplace painting statue wall window



5 **4.31** Listen to the tour guide. In what order do they visit these rooms?

the Cabinet Room the Oval Office the Roosevelt Room the secretary's office

6 **4.31** Listen again. Answer the questions.

- What is the 'Fish Room' now called?
- Who changed the name of the room?
- Where does the President meet with his staff?
- Which room is next to the Oval Office?
- Why does the tour guide mention the clock in the Oval Office?
- Who chooses the paintings for the Oval Office?

7 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Imagine you can build a dream home. Read the questions and discuss your ideas.

- Where is it?
- How many rooms has it got?
- What different rooms has it got?
- What do the rooms contain?

8 **INTERNET RESEARCH** Find out about a famous state building in your country. How old is it? Who lived or worked there in the past? Who lives or works there now? Can the public visit? Write a fact **LIVEWORKSHEETS**