

Joe Biden: 46th president of the USA

Joe Biden has promised to re-establish global alliances in his first speech as U.S. President. Mr. Biden was sworn in as the 46th U.S. President on Wednesday amid tight security in Washington. In unprecedented scenes, around 25,000 National Guard troops were positioned to make sure the inauguration took place without incident. In the first days of his presidency, Mr. Biden will make several executive orders to change the direction of America's foreign policy. He will rejoin the Paris climate accord. Biden spoke about restoring America's reputation overseas. He said: "America has been tested. And we've come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again."

Outgoing President Donald Trump left office vowing to "be back". His parting words to the American public were: "Have a good life, we will see you soon." Mr. Trump broke with tradition by not attending his successor's inauguration. In his farewell speech, Mr. Trump said: "This has been an incredible four years. We've accomplished so much together. What we've done has been amazing by any standard." He added: "It's been a great honour and privilege to be your president. I will always fight for you....I wish the new administration great luck and great success. I think they will have great success. They have the foundation to do something really spectacular."

Vocabulary

Paragraph 1

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| 1. alliances | a. The beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something. |
| 2. sworn in | b. Admitted to a particular office or position by asking them to take a formal oath (promise). |
| 3. unprecedented | c. The formal admission of someone to office (especially as president). |
| 4. inauguration | d. A union formed between countries or organizations to benefit everyone. |
| 5. incident | e. Participate or become involved in. |
| 6. reputation | f. Never done or known before. |
| 7. engage | g. An event or occurrence. |

Paragraph 2

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| 8. vowing | h. Achieved or completed successfully. |
| 9. parting words | i. A person that takes over from another. |
| 10. successor | j. An underlying basis or principle. |
| 11. accomplished | k. Solemnly promising to do a specified thing. |
| 12. privilege | l. The action of leaving. |
| 13. foundation | m. Strikingly large or obvious. |
| 14. spectacular | n. Something thought of as a rare opportunity and bringing particular pleasure. |

1. TRUE / FALSE: Note if 1-8 below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Joe Biden promised to re-establish global alliances in his second speech. **T / F**
2. There were nearly 20,000 National Guard troops at the inauguration. **T / F**
3. Joe Biden said he would rejoin the Paris climate accord. **T / F**
4. Joe Biden said America had yet to be tested. **T / F**
5. Donald Trump told people to have a good life. **T / F**
6. Donald Trump did not attend Joe Biden's inauguration. **T / F**
7. Donald Trump said he would continue to fight for people. **T / F**
8. Donald Trump thinks Biden's administration will be successful. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

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| 1. promised | a. impressive |
| 2. amid | b. drama |
| 3. unprecedented | c. good name |
| 4. incident | d. farewell |
| 5. reputation | e. surrounded by |
| 6. parting | f. achieved |
| 7. tradition | g. vowed |
| 8. accomplished | h. basis |
| 9. foundation | i. unheard of |
| 10. spectacular | j. custom |

3. Comprehension questions.

1. What did Joe Biden say he would re-establish?
2. How many National Guards were in Washington?
3. How many executive orders does the article say Biden will make?
4. What does Joe Biden want to restore?
5. Who did Joe Biden say he would engage with?
6. What did Donald Trump vow he would do?
7. What did Donald Trump break with?
8. What did Donald Trump say he'd accomplished?
9. What did Mr. Trump say being president was besides an honour?
10. What did Donald Trump say the new administration could do?