



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

INDEX OF GLOSSARY TERMS

The number of the question(s) in which the term appears is listed after each entry in [].

abolitionist – a person who wanted slavery to end; a person who worked to change the laws to make slavery illegal (against the law) [76]

abortion – the practice of ending a pregnancy so the baby is never born [38]

abroad – overseas; in another country [28]

absolute power – total control; having all of the power; unshared power [13]

to abuse – to use something in a bad way; to use too much of one's power [26]

academy – a school for a specific purpose or field of study [82]

to accomplish – to make something happen, especially something that is difficult and important [89]

act – a written law [8, 31]

act of civil disobedience – the practice of breaking a rule as a way to try to change the rules, usually because it is unfair [84]

to act on (something) – to respond; to do something as a result of something else that happens [33]

administration – the period of time when one person is serving or working as president [29, 46]

to admire – to think that someone has done a good thing or is a good person and who is liked and respected for that reason [82]

to adopt – to accept something and begin to do, use, or have it [63, 96]

adventure – an exciting experience in one's life, especially involving traveling [58]

to advise – to give advice, information, and ideas about how another person should do something or think about something [35]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

advisor – a trusted guide; a person who gives advice and shares his or her opinions and beliefs [13]

advocacy – efforts to show people what one thinks and to tell the government how things should be done; public support for a cause or issue [20]

to advocate for (something) – to be in favor of something; to support something and want it to happen or be accepted [22]

affiliated with (something) – connected to an organization as a member [45]

agenda – a plan for what will be discussed at a meeting; a person's plan for what he or she wants to get done while working in a public job [40, 46]

allegiance – loyalty; faithfulness to something; always giving or showing strong support to someone or something [52]

alliance – a group of people, organizations, or countries that work together, especially during a war [81]

almanac – a book that is published every year and has a lot of information, including useful dates and numbers [68]

to alternate – to change between two different things, back and forth [96]

ambassador – an official representatives of a country in another country [36]

to amend – to change something, especially the U.S. Constitution, usually by adding something to it [7]

amendment – a change or addition, especially to the U.S. Constitution [4, 26, 48]

American Dream – the idea that Americans can do and become anything they want to through hard work, making a life that is better than what their parents had [28]

ancestral lands – the land that belonged to one's relatives many years ago [87]

anxiously – with a lot of worry and stress [66]

appeal – an official request or document asking a higher, more important court to rule on one's lawsuit [38]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to appear – to be seen [94]

to apply – to affect; to be relevant for [91]

to apply for (something) – to fill out a form to request something, often to enter a program or to receive a document [50]

appointed – chosen for and given a position by someone with a lot of power [14, 35, 39]

apportionment – the way that something is shared among many people [21]

appropriations – related to how the government decides how it will spend its money [13, 34]

armed forces – the military; the people and organizations who fight for a country, usually to protect it [15]

arms – guns and other weapons [51]

army – the people and organizations who fight for a country, usually to protect it, and usually fighting on the ground (not in the air or on the ocean) [41]

to arrest – for the police to force someone to go to jail because he or she has done something against the law [84]

article – a section or part, especially of a legal document [4]

Articles of Confederation – a 1781 agreement that created the first government of the United States [65]

artifact – a historical object that has a lot of meaning [98]

aspect – a part of something; one way of looking at something [12]

to assassinate – to kill a politician or another important person [6, 30]

assassination – the murder of a country's leader or another important person [75]

at random – happening without a plan or pattern; with all things having an equal likelihood of happening or being selected [57]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

at war with (a country) – fighting with another country [90]

to attack – to fight; to do something to hurt a person or a place [79, 81]

to attribute (something) to (something) – to say why something happened; to say what the reason is for something [77]

automatic doors – doors that open without being touched when a person comes near them [62]

to avoid – to do something so that something else does not happen; to find a way to prevent something from happening [31, 56, 70]

to balance – to make or keep things equal, so that no part is stronger, bigger, or more powerful than another part [2]

to balance the budget – to make sure that an organization does not spend more money than it receives in a period of time [43]

ballot – a piece of paper with the names of people who are trying to get a public office and/or the laws that are being voted on [27]

banner – a long piece of fabric, like a flag [98]

barbeque – a meal where people cook meat over a fire on a piece of metal [99]

battle – a fight in a war [69]

battlefield – a place where the fighting actually happens, especially in a war [32]

bay – a large area of water that is mostly surrounded by land [64]

to be a testament to (something) – to show that something is true; to be an example showing that something is true [88]

to be arrested – to be forced to go to jail by the police because one has done something against the law [77]

to be behind (something) – to support something; to think that something is a good idea and do and say things so that it will succeed [66]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to be credited with (something) – to be remembered as the person who did something [100]

to be delayed – to happen later than expected; to have an event begin later than planned [90]

to be dependent on (something) – to need something in order to work or function properly [74]

to be exemplified by (something) – to be shown, seen, or explained as something else; to give as a typical example of something [9]

to be exempt from (something) – to not have to follow something; to not have something be applicable to oneself [12]

to be incorporated – to officially become part of a city, country, or business [97]

to be no exception – to be no different; to be the same [19]

to be produced – to be made, manufactured, or created [11]

to be supposed to – should; to be required to [100]

to be vested with (something) – to be given something officially; to have something [43]

to bear – to have and use something, especially guns or other weapons [51]

to bear arms – to carry weapons, especially guns [5]

to beat – to hit a person very badly to cause pain [60]

benefit – a good thing about having or doing something [53]

to betray – to do something against someone or something; to break someone's trust [53]

bicameral – with two chambers or parts; an organization with two major parts [16, 17]

bifocals – glasses that has two types of glass in them: one that helps people see things that are close, and one that helps people see things that are far away [68]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

bill – an old word meaning "list" [5]

bill – a proposal or an idea for a new law [16, 23, 33, 34, 47]

bill – a piece of paper money; money that is printed on paper [41, 70]

Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which state the rights that all Americans should have [7]

biographical information – information about a person's life; information about who a person is and what he or she has done [23]

bitter – having very negative and unhappy feelings [66]

bitterly – in a very strong, negative, and unhappy way [75]

to block (something) – to not allow something to happen; to prevent something from happening [71]

bold – large and clear; actions showing that one is not afraid of anyone or anything; courageous and brave [63]

to bomb (a place) – to drop weapons or things that will explode over a building or an area of land [78, 81]

bond – a piece of paper bought from the government with the promise that the government will give the buyer even more money on a certain day in the future [79]

border – a line drawn between two countries, states, counties, or similar areas on a map, where one area ends and another area begins [41, 92]

to border (something) – to be next to another area [44]

boundary – a line drawn on a map between two areas, separating them and showing where one ends and the other begins [25]

to boycott – to stop using, doing, or buying something as a way to show that one doesn't like the way something is done [8, 84]

branch – a part of something, usually of the government or an organization; one of many parts [2, 13]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to break a tie – to vote only when an equal number of people vote for or against something, so that one's vote decides the result [18, 29]

to bring up (a person) – to raise a child; to help a child grow up and become an adult [28]

budget – a plan for how a person, organization, business, or government will spend its money in the future [43]

by – before a date; before something else happens [27]

cabinet – a group of people who give advice, information, and ideas to the U.S. president on many important issues [15, 35, 36, 73]

to call on (someone) – to give someone permission to speak during a meeting; to say that it is okay for someone to speak [47]

campaign – the things people do to try to be elected for a government job, and the period of time before people vote [55]

candidate – a person who is trying to be elected to a government job [55]

capital – a city where government buildings are and important decisions are made [44]

case – a lawsuit; a problem or argument that has to be talked about in court [38]

case – an instance; an occurrence [93]

to cast a ballot – to vote; to complete a ballot and give it to the officials [27, 48]

cause – a reason why something happens [72, 74]

cautiously – slowly and very carefully [76]

to cede – for one country to give land to another country, usually because it lost a war [91, 93]

census – an official count of the number of people living in an area [21]

central – very important; main part; critical [12]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to centralize – to make the national government more powerful than smaller pieces of government within the country; to have many offices and services in a central location instead of spreading them out over a larger area [66]

ceremonial – related to special days, especially holidays, and special gatherings [43]

challenge – something that is difficult to do, but also may be exciting [21, 80]

to change (one's) mind – to change one's opinion about something; to begin thinking about something differently [81]

character – personality; what a person is like inside, not his or her physical appearance [85]

to check – to control; to monitor or observe something to make sure that it is done correctly [2]

checks and balances – the separation of powers in the U.S. government so that none of the three parts of the government has total control over everything and each part has about the same level of power [14]

citizen – a person who is part of a country; a person who belongs to a country [3, 28]

citizenship – the right to belong to a country [53]

civic involvement – citizen participation in the government [55]

civil rights – the rights that citizens have to social and political freedom and equality, and having the same opportunities as all other citizens [5, 77]

civil rights movement – the period of time in the 1950s and 1960s in the United States when many people were working to have equal rights for whites and non-whites [84, 85]

civil war – a war where two or more parts of one country are fighting against each other [75]

to claim – to say that something is true, especially if other people do not believe it or if one does not have proof [73]

class system – a way of organizing society so that poor people stay poor and rich people stay rich, and it is difficult or impossible for poor people to become rich [58]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

coalition – a group of people or organizations that work together [78]

coast – land next to an ocean [90]

coastline – the part of land next to the ocean [32]

coin – a piece of money made from metal; a small, round piece of metal that is used as money [41, 64, 77]

Cold War – the period of time from the 1940s to the 1990s when the United States and the Soviet Union had many political problems with each other [78]

to collapse – to fall down quickly, usually because something is weak and unstable [86]

collectively – as a group; together; not independently [7]

colonel – an important leader in the military [69]

colonist – a person who lives in an area of land that belongs to a country that is far away [3]

colony – an area of land that is far away from the country it belongs to [58, 61, 64, 90]

commander-in-chief – the person who leads a country's military (in the United States, this is the president) [15, 32, 69]

to commemorate – to do something to remember and honor an important person or event in history [97, 99]

committee – a small group of people working together for a specific purpose [16]

common – usual and normal; not rare [74]

commonplace – popular and easy to find; not rare [97]

communist movement – growing interest in becoming communist among many people [83]

to complain – to say or write something to let others know that one doesn't like something or thinks it is wrong [93]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

complaint – something that one says or writes down to let others know that one doesn't like it or thinks it is wrong [63]

complex – complicated; not simple; with many different parts that are not easy to understand [16]

to comprise – to be made up of; to consist of [37]

compromise – a solution that gives everybody some, but not all, of what they want [65]

to confirm – to approve a nomination; to give a position, job, or award to someone who has been nominated for it [35, 39]

Congress – the legislative (lawmaking) part of the U.S. government; the group of elected national representatives [4, 16, 17]

conscientious objector – a person who does not join the military or fight in a war because he or she believes that war is wrong, often because of his or her religious beliefs [57]

conscripted – forced to join the military; told by the government that one must join the military [54]

consent – agreement; permission to do something or to allow something to happen [16]

consequence – something that happens as a result of doing something else [54]

conservative – believing that the economy should operate freely with little government intervention (or involvement), supporting lower taxes, and less control and influence by the federal (or national) government. [45]

constituency – the group of voters in a specific area; the people who live in an area that an elected official represents [20]

constituents – the people represented by an elected official; the people who live in an area that an elected official represents [23, 24]

Constitution – the most important legal document in the United States, describing the national government and how it should work [1]

Constitutional Convention – the meeting where the U.S. Constitution was written [65]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to contact (someone) – to speak with someone or write to someone [18]

contact information – information about how one can be reached, such as one's address, telephone number, fax number, or email address [20]

continuity – the way that something stays the same over time [19, 39]

contract – a legal agreement [54]

controversial – something that is argued about a lot because people have very strong and different opinions about it [5, 51]

to convene – to have everyone meet in a group; to create a meeting and to invite the members or other people to come [8, 17]

copper – a type of metal that turns green over time [95]

courage – bravery; not being afraid [96]

court – a place where legal decisions are made, especially about whether or not something has broken a law, or what that law really means [37]

to cover – to talk about; to discuss or describe a certain topic [34]

covered wagon – a heavy, wooden box covered with white fabric that moved on wheels and was pulled by strong cows or horses [89]

to crash into (something) – to hit something while one is in motion [86]

critical – very important and significant [74]

to criticize – to say something bad about something; to say something negative about something; to say that something is bad or wrong [25]

cruel and unusual punishment – an uncommon, painful, unfair, and mean way to punish someone for doing something wrong [5]

currency – the type of money used in a country [41]

customs – places where a person who works for the government asks people why they are entering the country and what they are bringing with them to make sure that they aren't buying things in one country and selling them in the other country [92]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to date – until now; until the present; before today [30]

deadliest – with the highest number of deaths [73]

to debate – to talk about the reasons for or against doing or supporting something [16, 22]

Declaration of Independence – the letter that was written to let Great Britain know that its colonies had become the United States, an independent country [62, 63]

to declare – to officially state that something is true; to tell other people that something is true or has been decided [8, 69]

to declare bankruptcy – to get legal permission to not pay back the money that one owes to other people and organizations because one doesn't have any money left [37]

to declare war – to officially say that a war is beginning [41]

to decline – to say no; to decide not to have, do, or accept something [70]

decorated – made to look especially nice by adding or attaching smaller things [96]

to defend – to help protect something; to support and stand up for something [53]

defense – protection from a person or country that wants to hurt oneself [83]

to define – to explain; to say what something is or what something means [2]

delegate – representative; a person who is sent to a meeting or other event by and for another person [1, 21]

demarcated – with the border or the limits of an area drawn on a map [92]

descendant – grandchildren and great-grandchildren; relatives who are born after oneself [93]

design – a plan for what something will look like or how something will be made [97]

to destroy – to ruin something; to change something so that it can never be used again or so that it no longer functions [66]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to determine – to decide; to identify [42]

devastating – extremely bad; horrible and destructive [59]

to die for (one's) country – to die while fighting in a war for one's country [100]

diplomat – a person who represents his or her government in another country [68]

diplomatic – careful conversations between political leaders representing different countries [83]

to disappear – to no longer be seen; to become lost [90]

to discover – to learn about something for the first time; to learn about something that nobody else knows about [58]

discrimination – unfair treatment, usually because of a person's age, race (skin color), gender (sex), or religion [76]

to discuss (something) – to talk about something; to have a conversation about something [40, 65]

to displace – to force someone to leave a particular area so that one can use that area for oneself; to force people to leave an area because of dangerous events [59]

dispute – disagreement; argument [17, 92]

district – area; a sub-division of a larger area; a large part or section of a bigger area [25, 44]

division – a separate part of something; a major part or section of an organization [13]

document – a written record; a report, policy, law, essay, or anything else that is written down to share information [1]

domain – responsibility; the area where someone or something is in control [42]

draft – the process of forcing young people to join the military during a war [57, 79]

to draft – to plan something in writing; to begin to write a document [12]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

dream – something that one wants to see happen; a vision and a hope for the future [85]

drinking fountain – a place where people can drink water in public, such as on the street or in a building [84]

driver's license – a card that gives one permission to drive a car, usually with one's picture on it [42]

due process – the idea of equal protection under the law, and that the government must respect all of a person's rights and follow rules [12]

dusk – the time of day when the sun sets and it begins to get dark [99]

duty – responsibility; something that someone must do [29, 43, 47]

to elect – to select or choose a person to work in a government job [3]

election – a competition to see who gets the most votes and is chosen for a public position [24]

eligible – meeting the requirements to do something; allowed to do something because one meets all of the requirements [28, 48]

eligible voter – a person who is allowed to vote; a person who meets all of the requirements to vote [27]

to emancipate – to give freedom to someone; to do something so that someone is no longer a slave [76]

Emancipation Proclamation – a U.S. government document that made it against the law to own other people as slaves [75]

emergency – a major problem that was not expected [57]

to emphasize (something) – to give importance to something; to focus on or highlight something [45]

to enact – to create; to make [16]

to endorse – for a person or organization to support something and say that it is better than other things, sharing that opinion with many people [10]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

enemy – a person or country whom one is fighting against; a person or country who is against one's country [51]

to enforce (something) – to make people follow a law or rule; to make sure that a rule or law is applied [36]

to engage in (something) – to become involved in something [83]

enthusiasm – interest and desire to do something [22]

entitled – with the right to have or get something; allowed to do something [50]

epidemic disease – an illness that makes a very large number of people very sick very quickly [59]

equal – the same; not different [13]

equality – the idea that everyone should be treated in the same way under the law [12, 85]

equally – in the same way; fairly [17]

especially so – even more so; very much true [75]

essay – a short written document or article [67]

to establish – to create; to start; to form [42]

estimate – to guess at the amount of something without calculating it or knowing the exact amount [60]

to evade (something) – to avoid something; to find a way to not do something [37]

eventually – after a long period of time [66, 74]

to execute (someone) – to kill someone, usually because he or she has done something against the law or against a government [9]

executive – related to enforcing laws or making sure that people follow laws; related to the U.S. president [2]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to expand – to make something bigger or to make it cover a larger area [80, 89]

to expel – to force someone to leave an organization [19]

experiment – a scientific test; a methodical test to see if something will do what thinks it will do [68]

exploration – the process of traveling through an area to learn more about it [88]

explorer – a person who goes to an unknown place to learn about it [59]

to extend – to make something longer; to make something bigger [31]

to extend (something) – to hold something up in the air [95]

extension – an additional part of something; an additional period of time of something [78]

to fall in (a period of time) – to happen in a certain period of time [99]

far-reaching – having a lot of influence or impact; having many consequences; being very important [38]

fate – the things that happen to someone; outcome; the events that happen in someone's life [90]

to favor (someone or something) – to give advantages to someone or something [44]

federal – national; related to the entire country [2, 42]

field – an area where something is grown for food, clothing, housing, or other things [60]

to file (something) – to send in official documents; to submit documents [56]

to fill out (something) – to write the requested information on a form (a piece of paper that requests information and has spaces where information can be written down) [56]

final push – the last thing that needs be done so that something else can happen [81]

fine – money that must be paid because one did something wrong or bad [56]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

fireworks – colorful explosions in the air that make a lot of noise and are pretty to look at [99]

flag – a colored piece of fabric, usually a rectangle, that represents the country [52]

to flee – to run away from something or someone, usually to leave a dangerous or difficult situation; to leave a dangerous or difficult situation [10, 58]

fluid – able to change over time; not always the same; likely to change [81]

for life – for the rest of one's life, or possibly until one decides to stop working [39]

to forbid – to prohibit; to not allow something; to make something illegal or unacceptable [48]

forces – the military; the people and organizations that fight for a country, usually to protect it [82]

foreign affairs – things that happen between two or more countries [36]

form – a piece of paper that requests information and has spaces where information can be written down [56]

to form – to create; to make; to establish [1]

to found – to create or establish an organization, business, or government [65]

founder – the person who starts an organization or company [62]

Founding Fathers – the group of men who made the U.S. government [7]

fraction – a percentage, portion, or part of something [87]

to free (someone) – to do something so that a person is no longer a slave; to let someone out of jail or prison; to give someone freedom [75]

freedom of assembly – the right to join and participate in any group or organization and for that group to meet without being in trouble with the government [6]

freedom of speech – the right to say whatever one wants to; ability to speak about one's opinions or beliefs without getting into trouble with the government [6]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

freedom of the press – the right of newspapers, magazines, radio programs, and television stations to write or say whatever they want to without asking the government for permission [6]

fringe – a lot of short gold-colored threads (or pieces of string) that are sewn around the edge of a piece of fabric or clothing [96]

to frustrate (someone) – to make someone feel angry because something is not happening the way one wants it to happen [77]

to gather – to collect; to find many things and put them together [23]

gender – sex; whether someone is a man or a woman [48]

general – a military leader [82]

gerrymandering – the process of changing where one district begins and another district ends based on what people believe in in certain areas to influence or affect the results of an election [25]

to get back (something) – to have something returned [72]

to get rid of (something) – to no longer have something; to throw something away; to stop having something [8, 51]

to give up (something) – to no longer have something; to let something go away [53]

global – relating to the whole planet; relating to everyone on Earth [79]

goods – products; things that are bought and sold [88]

to govern – to lead and make decisions for a group of people [3]

governing document – the law or laws that create a country, a business, or an organization, saying what kind of government or management it will have and how it will work [10]

government interference – involvement by the government, usually when people or organizations do not want the government to become involved [11]

governor – the political leader of a U.S. state; the head of a state government [43]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

gradually – a little bit at a time; happening or changing slowly [76]

grateful – wanting to say thank you for something; feeling thankful about something [100]

Great Depression – a period of time in the 1930s when the U.S. economy was doing very poorly [80]

greater good – maximum benefits or good things for everyone in society [11]

grievance – a complaint about something that is wrong; a belief that something is wrong or unfair [6]

grounded – not allowed to fly for a period of time [86]

to guarantee – to promise and protect something; to make sure that something happens [2]

to guide (someone) – to lead someone; to show someone what to do or how to do something [47]

guilty – having committed a crime; having done something wrong [49]

gun control – the practice of using laws to make it difficult or impossible for people to own guns [5]

harvest – something that was grown and collected from the fields [100]

to have no idea – to absolutely not know; to be completely surprised by something [79]

head of state – the most important political leader of a country [15, 91]

to hear a case – to decide on a legal issue; to hear what both parties have to say about a legal issue and then make a decision about which party is correct [37, 40]

heaven – the place where Christians believe God lives and where good people go when they die [96]

hidden – secret; not known to other people [31]

to hijack – to take control of a plane and change its flight plan to try to get something that one wants, usually from a government [86]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to hit home – to understand that something affects one's own life personally, and doesn't happen only to other people or in other places [86]

to hold (a meeting) – to have a meeting at a particular time and place [24]

homogenous – a group of all of the same kinds of people; a group of similar people or things [87]

to honor (someone or something) – to give special recognition or importance to someone or something [77, 93, 100]

horizontal – from right to left, not up and down [96]

hostility – dislike; unfriendliness and anger [83]

human rights – the things that all people should be allowed to do and to have [63]

to hunt – kill animals for sport and/or to eat the meat [51]

ideology – ideas and beliefs about how government or society should work [83]

illegal – against the law; not legal [4]

immigration – the process of people coming to a country to live there, even though they weren't born there [74]

immoral – wrong; against the standards of society [74]

immunity – a body's ability to fight against a specific disease, so that even if a person is exposed to a disease, he or she does not get sick [59]

to impeach – to take away the presidency or another public job from a person because he or she has done something wrong [30]

impeachment trial – a series of meetings where Congress decides whether the U.S. president is doing his or her job so badly that the presidency should be taken away from him or her [40]

implication – something that happens as a result of something else [53]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to impose (something) on (someone) – to force someone to do or have something, especially if he or she does not want it [61]

in a row – consecutive; right after each other [100]

in common – shared; something that two or more people have that are the same [51]

in detail – with a lot of specific information; not general [67]

in favor of (something) – in support of something; wanting something to happen [67]

in office – while working in a public position [26, 30]

in reality – in real life; truthfully; not imaginary [84]

in session – having a meeting [24]

in terms of – related to; measured by [25]

inadvertently – without knowing or wanting to; having something happen unintentionally; without realizing what is happening [59]

to inaugurate (someone) – to have an official ceremony when a person first begins working in a public position or job [40]

income tax – money that is paid to the government based on how much money one makes each year [56, 79]

indefinitely – lasting forever; without a clear end [22]

independence – freedom; the ability of a country or area to make its own decisions, especially about its government [41, 63]

independent – free; with liberty; not controlled by something or someone else [8]

independently – alone, without paying attention to what other people are doing [45]

to indicate – to show something; to make something clear [27, 33]

indivisible – cannot be divided into smaller pieces; cannot be separated or pulled apart [52]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

influence – effect or impact, especially on the way that people think and act; the ability to change something [93, 94]

to influence (something) – to affect something; to change something, especially how people think or act [40, 67]

influential – able to affect other people's opinions and actions [62]

to inherit – to receive something when a relative dies [3]

inspiration – something that one wants to do, or an exciting reason for wanting to do something good; having your mind feel excited to do something, especially something creative [80]

integration – the process of getting people of different races (skin color) to work and live together without problems [82]

to intend – to plan to do something [71]

to interfere with (something) – to get in the way of something; to prevent something else from happening; to make it difficult for something else to happen [9]

to interpret – to determine or decide what something means [2, 37, 67]

interstate highway – a long road without stoplights or stop signs where cars can drive very quickly from one state to another [82]

to invade – to take control of a country without the permission of the people who live there [78]

invention – something that is made for the first time because no one else had thought of it before [68]

inventor – a person who makes new things that no one else had thought of before [62]

invisible hand – the idea that there is no need for the government to be very involved in the economy because the natural actions of buyers and sellers will automatically make sure that the right things are being sold at the right prices [11]

isolationism – a way of running a government so that the country does not get involved in things that are happening in other countries [81]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to join hands – to hold one another's hands; to put another person's hand in one's own hand to show friendship, love, or respect [85]

journal – a magazine, usually published by an organization; a publication with many articles in it [77]

journal – a small book that one writes in, usually to remember what one has done or how one felt about something [88]

journey – a long trip; traveling a long distance [88, 89]

judge – a person whose job is to manage a trial and courtroom and decide whether a person should be punished for breaking the law [38, 49]

to judge – to evaluate; to decide whether something is good or bad [85]

judicial – related to interpreting the laws (deciding what laws mean) and deciding who has broken a law [2]

judicial branch – the court system; the part of the U.S. government that decides what the laws mean and determines whether people have done something against the law [37]

jury – a small group of people who listen to a trial and decide whether or not a person has done something against the law [49]

jury duty – the period of time when a person stops doing his or her regular job and goes to court to listen to a case and decide whether someone has broken the law [49]

just to the (direction) – immediately next to something in a particular direction [92]

justice – fairness in the law; being fair and reasonable [37, 52]

justice – a judge; one of the judges who work on the Supreme Court [39]

justification – a reason for doing something; an explanation for why one has done something [63]

to kidnap (someone) – to take someone away, usually because one wants to get money for returning him or her [90]

labor – hard work done by people; physical work [60]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

lack – to not have something that one needs [61]

to last – to continue for a period of time; a time period from beginning to end [72]

late entrant – a person, country, business, or organization that started doing something later, after others were already doing it [81]

lawmaking – legislative; related to making new laws and changing existing laws [13]

lawsuit – a case; a problem or argument that has to be talked about and a decision made in court [38]

leadership – direction and management from one person or a small group of people; the ability to make other people believe in oneself and follow oneself [43, 82]

left-leaning – interested in social issues that liberals care about, like the environment and equal human rights [45]

legislative – related to making laws; related to the part of the government that makes laws [2]

legislator – a person who makes laws [17]

legislature – the lawmaking part of the government [65]

lethal – deadly; able to kill someone or an animal [51]

letter to the editor – a part of the newspaper where people can write about their strong beliefs [55]

letter-writing campaign – an attempt to get many people to write to someone on a single topic, usually to change that person's opinion about something or to ask him or her to do something related to that topic [20]

liberal – believing that wealth (or money) should be shared among all people and that the government should make laws to help this happen, even if that means having higher taxes (or money paid to the government) so that everyone can receive help and services [45]

liberty – freedom [9, 52]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

library – a building that has many books that people can read without having to buy the books [68]

license plate – a flat, rectangular pieces of metal with letters and numbers on the front and back of cars and trucks, showing that the car is registered with the government [94]

life term – a period of time that lasts for the rest of one's life, usually until one dies or until one decides that one does not want to continue doing something [14]

to light (something) – to start a candle, match, fireworks, or something else with fire [99]

limit – the lower or upper end of a range; the minimum or maximum amount of something [28]

limitation – something that is not allowed or included in a law; the maximum amount of something that is allowed [6]

line item – a single line or part of a proposal, bill, or budget [34]

line of succession – the plan for who will become the next person to work in a particular job when the current person can no longer do the job [35, 47]

to long – to strongly want to have or do something [61]

to look to the future – to make plans for what might happen in the future [97]

lower court – a court that is less powerful than another court [37]

loyal to (something) – supportive of something [53]

lyrics – the words that are sung in a song [98]

Magna Carta – a document written in England in 1215 that made the King follow laws of the country [12]

majority – the bigger part of something; more than 50% of something [25, 46]

majority party – the political party that most members of the House of Representatives and the Senate belong to [47]

majority vote – a vote where more than 50% of the voters say "yes" to something [14]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

Manifest Destiny – the idea that the United States should reach across North American from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean [89]

to manufacture – to make things to sell [74]

manufacturing industry – the part of the economy that makes things for people to buy [80]

march – an event where many people walk together down a street to support an idea or to show how they feel about something [85]

mayor – the elected leader of a city or a metropolitan area [50]

melody – the main musical notes in a song; the music of a song without the words [98]

to merit – to deserve something; to be worthy of something [69]

military – the people and organizations who fight for a country, usually to protect it [13, 32, 36, 69]

military service – the period of time when a person works in the armed forces (organization with soldiers who fight for a country) [57]

military supplies – things that are needed to fight a war, like guns [73]

militia – army; military; a group of people who are trained to work as soldiers even though they are not part of the government's official army [51]

minimum wage – the smallest amount of money that a person can be paid legally for one hour of work [80]

to mirror – to be very similar to or the same as something [91]

mob rule – control of the government by a large group of people, usually using violence to get power [12]

monarch – a king or queen [3]

monetary bill – a piece of paper money; money that is printed on paper [36]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

monument – a building, statue, or something else that is built to remember an important person or event [44, 70]

to mourn (one's) loss – to feel very sad that someone has died [75]

national anthem – a song that officially represents a country [98]

native – a person who was born in a particular place and has always lived there [59]

naval base – a place where a country's military ships are kept [81]

to negotiate – to discuss something, trying to get the other person or organization to agree to what one wants [36, 62, 71]

negotiation – a discussion where one tries to get the other person or organization to agree to what one wants [79]

neutral – not fighting on either side of a war; not having an opinion in favor of or against something; not supporting either side of an argument [79]

New World – North and South America before very many Europeans lived there [58]

to nominate (someone) – to say that one wants someone to work in a particular position or to have a particular title, prize, or award [29, 35, 39]

non-militarized – not related to the military; without soldiers protecting an area [92]

nonvoting delegate – a person who is chosen to attend meetings, especially of a legislature, but cannot vote there [91]

nuclear arms race – a period of time when the Soviet Union and the United States made a lot of nuclear bombs and scared each other with them [83]

oath – the promises that one makes orally (spoken) when beginning to work in a public position or job [40]

oath of office – a statement promising to do one's best while serving in a public position [30]

to obey – to follow; to listen to; to do what one is told to do [1, 53]

obviously – clearly; easily seen and understood [24, 78]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

office – a public position; a public job [26]

official – approved by the government or another organization or person with power [97]

on active duty – working in the police or military [32]

on behalf of (someone) – in the name of someone; doing something for someone else or because someone else has asked one to [3]

on impact – at the moment when something hits something else [86]

opinion – a written document explaining what a court (especially the Supreme Court) decided and why [40]

opportunity – something that a person can be or do if one wants to [50]

oppressive – very controlling and overpowering, limiting what other people can do; allowing very little freedom [58]

to order – to tell someone to do something [84]

Oregon Trail – the trail or path that people followed from the eastern part of the early United States to the Oregon Territory in the west [89]

original – first and unchanged; the form in which something was first created [26]

to outrank (someone) – to have more power than another person in the same organization; to have a higher position than another person in the same organization [32]

to override – to change another person's or organization's decision by using one's power or authority [33, 34]

to overrule – to cancel or undo a decision made earlier by someone else [7]

overseas – foreign; related to other countries, especially on the other side of an ocean [8]

to overturn – to undo something; to use one's power to undo what another person or organization has done [14]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to owe – to need to pay money to someone [56]

panoramic – very big and wide, especially relating to views and scenery [95]

parade – a celebration where many people walk down the street slowly, often with flags. [96]

paralyzed – unable to move one's body [80]

to pass – to go by in time [33]

to pass up – to decide not do something; to miss an opportunity to do something [71]

passage – approval; the moment when the people making the decision agree to make a new law or rule [7]

patriotic – proud of one's country [98]

patriotism – feelings of being proud of one's country [99]

patrolled – monitored by police or soldiers to make sure things are safe and that there aren't any problems [92]

peace talks – discussions that should lead to the end of a war so that all countries are satisfied [79]

pedestal – the base of a statue; the large, heavy thing that a statue stands or rests on top of [95]

to perform (one's) responsibilities – to do one's job; to be able to do one's job [15]

permission – approval; being allowed to do something [6]

to persecute – to attack or be mean to a group of people, usually because they are different than other people or because of their beliefs [6, 58]

petition – a request to rule on a case; a request to hear a lawsuit and make a legal decision on it [38]

to petition – to ask for something; to formally ask the government (or another person or group with power) for something that one wants [6]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

plantation – a very large farm, mostly in the southern United States [60, 64]

to play an important role – to be an important part of something; to have important responsibilities in a project, organization, or business [88]

pledge – a promise; something that one says one will do [52]

to pledge – to say that one will do something; to make a promise [22]

pocket veto – the way that a bill is vetoed when the president does not sign the bill and Congress's meetings end less than 10 days after the bill is presented to him or her [33]

police force – a group of people and organizations that protect ordinary people from crime [42]

political affiliation – membership in a political party [46]

political party – a group of people who have the same political beliefs and belong to the same political organization [18, 45, 55]

politically active – involved in the government and politics [55]

poll – a survey; a questionnaire; a question or a list of questions asked of many people to find out the opinions of a group or of the general public [24]

population – the number of people who live in a particular area [25]

port – a city next to the water where boats can come and go, delivering and picking up products [71]

portrait – a painting or drawing of a person [70]

postmarked – stamped by the post office on the day that something is mailed [56]

postmaster general – the person who is responsible for the organization that delivers mail to homes and businesses within the United States [68]

to practice (a religion) – to follow the teachings of a religion; to be part of a religion and do what it tells people to do [10, 58]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

precedent – something that was done in the past and is used as a reason for doing things the same way later [26, 70]

to predict – to know something ahead of time; to believe that something will happen in the future [45]

pre-printed – already written and printed [20]

to preserve (something) – to be able to save something; to be able to protect something [75]

to preside over (something) – to lead something; to be responsible for something; to be in charge of something [40]

president pro tem – the member of the U.S. Senate who acts as the president of the Senate when the vice president of the United States cannot participate [18]

presiding officer – the person who is responsible for or in charge of a meeting [47]

pressing issue – a topic that is extremely important [24]

pressure – the feeling of needing to do something [54]

prestige – importance and respect [44]

to prevent – to make something impossible; to make something else not be able to happen [28, 78]

preventative – something that might keep something else from happening; something that avoids something else [81]

principle – explanation; the reason why something happens; the idea behind something [11]

to print money – to make paper money and/or coins for use in a country [41]

private entity – an individual or a business that is not owned by the government [11]

proclamation – a public announcement; an official announcement said to many people [76]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

profit – the money that a business makes by selling things after everything else has been paid for [11]

to prohibit – to forbid; to not allow something; to make something illegal or unacceptable [48, 91]

Prohibition – the period of time when there were laws against making, buying, and selling alcohol in the United States [4]

property – land, buildings, and other things that are owned by a person [77, 87]

property rights – ownership of the land [93]

proportional – with the correct or corresponding size or amount of something [25]

proposed – suggested but not yet approved [7]

prospective – potential; possible [14]

proud – very pleased with; very happy that one has done something, or very happy with how well one has done something [66]

pseudonym – a fake name that a writer or a group of writers use because they don't want people to know that they wrote something [67]

public opinion – the way that most people think about something [67]

to publish – to print a book, newspaper, or article; to have something that one has written made available to many people [67]

punishment – something that one must pay or do as a penalty for having done something wrong; how much money one will have to pay or how long one will be in jail for what one has done [49]

purity – wholeness and goodness, without being mixed with anything else [96]

to pursue – to work hard to get something, especially if it is difficult or requires a lot of time [9, 46]

to put (one's) hand over (one's) heart – to rest one's right hand on the left side of one's chest [98]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to put in place – to establish something; to implement something [12]

to put out – to end something, especially a fire [42]

quarter – a coin (a piece of money made from metal) worth 25 cents [70]

quartered – allowed to live, eat, and sleep in a place for a short period of time [61]

quote – a famous phrase; something that a person said or wrote that has been repeated many times by many other people [68]

race – a person's skin color or ethnic background [48]

racial discrimination – the practice of treating people differently and unfairly because of the color of their skin [84]

racial groups – groups of people with the same heritage, skin color, eye color, and/or facial features [25]

rags-to-riches story – a story where a very poor person works very hard and, as a result, becomes very rich and successful [9]

railroad – a special road for trains that move by rolling over two very long, straight pieces of metal [88]

range – the size of the difference between the highest and lowest musical notes in a song [98]

ranking – importance; one's place in a list, usually from best to worst, most to least, and so on [35]

ratified – approved and made into a law [54]

to ratify – to approve and make into a law [66]

to ration – to allow people to have or to buy only a small amount of something because there is not enough of it for everyone [80]

to rebel against (something or someone) – to stop obeying something or someone; to stop doing what one has been told to do [61]

rebellion – an organized effort to change the leadership of a country [73]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to recite – to say something from memory, without reading it; to say or repeat something [52]

to recognize (a country's) independence – to agree that a new country has been created and treat an area of land as a new country instead of as part of another country [73]

redistricting – the process of changing where one district begins and another district ends, or the process of creating new districts or removing old ones [25]

to refer to (something) – to look at or read something, especially to find information when one is researching something else; to mention or give attention to something [67]

to register – to sign up for something; to put one's name on a list to be able to do something [27, 53, 57]

to reinterpret – to read something again and decide that it should be understood differently [7]

to rejoin (something) – to become part of something again; to become part of something that one used to be a part of [73]

religious diversity – the existence of many different religions in the same place at the same time [10]

religious practices – actions related to a religion; the ways that people behave because of their religion [6]

to relocate – to begin to live in a new place, often because one has a new job that requires moving [87]

to rely on (something) – to need and use something; to depend on something [24, 88]

to remind (someone) – to make someone remember something; to tell someone about a future event so that he or she doesn't forget [94]

Renaissance man – a man who has many different types of knowledge and knows how to do many different things [62]

to repeal – to take back; to undo something, especially a law that was already made [4, 34]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

representation – having someone officially make decisions and vote for another person or for a group of people [17, 18]

representative – a person who is elected or chosen to make decisions for another person or for a group of people [21]

representative democracy – a type of government in which citizens vote for people who represent them in the government, usually making laws and decisions that the citizens want [3, 55, 94]

republic – a country or nation [52]

to request – to ask someone to do something; to ask for something [20]

reserved for (something or someone) – set aside for; arranged for the use of something by a specific person or group of people [44, 50]

residency – where a person has lived and for how long [28]

resident – a person who lives in a particular state or area [43, 94]

resident alien – a person who can live and work in the United States but is not a citizen [49]

to resign – to chose to leave a job; to choose to leave a public position before one has finished the normal period of time [19, 29, 30]

to resist – to fight against something; to try not to let something happen [59]

to resolve – to find a solution to a problem; to decide something; to bring an end to a problem or situation [1]

responsibility – something that one should do; something that one needs to do [50]

restored – repaired; fixed; repaired and made to look like its original condition [98]

to retire – to stop working so that one can enjoy one's old age [39]

to reverse – to become the opposite of what something was [46]

revolutionary – a person who wants to change the government [8]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to reward – to give something nice, useful, and pleasant to someone because of something good that he or she has done [22]

right – the power or ability to do something; a freedom [4, 5, 49, 50, 51, 74]

to ring – to be heard over a great distance, usually when talking about bells [85]

risk – the possibility of something bad happening [50]

risky – with many dangers; with a possibility for failure; dangerous [30, 76]

rite of passage – an important thing that one does to move from one phase of one's life to another phase [54]

robe – a large piece of cloth that is worn over one's shoulders and reaches one's feet [95]

role – a position; a job; a function [18, 29, 82]

roll call votes – a list of how each representative voted on a particular bill [23]

Roman numerals – a way of writing numbers using letters instead of numbers [95]

route – the way that one plans to go from one place to another; the path followed by a car, plane, bus, or train [86]

rug – a small carpet or floor covering [87]

to rule – to make a legal decision; to decide whether something is against the law; to decide how something should be done [39]

to rule – to govern or control; to have official power in an area and/or over a group of people [63]

to run for election – to try to be elected to a public position; to try to get a public job through votes [19]

to run for office – to try to be elected to a public position; to try to get a public job through votes [26, 50, 55]

salary – the amount of money that a person makes each year [39]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

satisfied – pleased; content [17]

scandal – something that happens where a famous person behaves badly and normal people become angry about it [29]

scholarship – money given to a student to help pay for his or her education, usually because he or she doesn't have very much money and/or is a very good student or athlete [57]

search warrant – an official document that lets police enter one's home to look for something, even if one doesn't want them to enter one's home [5]

seat – one of many positions, especially elected positions, in an organization [21]

to secede – for one area of land to stop being a part of a country and become independent [72, 73]

secretary – one of the 15 people in the Cabinet [35]

to secure (something) – to succeed in getting something, especially if it is difficult or rare [69]

to seek – to search; to look for something; to want to find something [58]

to seek office – to try to be elected to a public position; to try to get a public job through votes [55]

self-government – the ability of a group of people to create their own government and decide who will represent them in that government [3]

self-identity – the way that one sees and understands oneself [61]

self-interest – making decisions based on what is best for oneself [11]

separation of church and state – the idea that religion and government should be separate and independent, not working together closely [10]

to serve – to work in a public position; to work in a government job [19, 22, 30, 31]

session – a meeting [24]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

session – period of time when Congress meets; a period of time when a committee meets [33, 47]

to set – to establish; to put; to place [54]

to set off – to begin a trip; to start on one's travels; to begin a journey [89]

to set off – to cause an explosion [99]

to settle – to begin living in a place where people had not lived before [87]

settlement – a place where people begin living, where people had not lived before [64]

to sew – to make something out of fabric or cloth; to use needle and thread or a machine to make something out of cloth [97]

shore – land next to an ocean [59]

to shrink – to become smaller in size or number [21]

to sign (something) – to write one's name on something, usually to show approval or agreement [20, 46, 63]

signature – a person's name written down in a unique style, showing that a person agrees with a document or approves of it [33]

silversmith – a person who makes jewelry and other things out of silver metal [87]

simultaneously – at the same time [35]

site – a place; a location [44]

slave – a person who is forced to work without pay and is owned by another person [60, 64, 65]

slave ship – a large boat that brought slaves (people who were forced to work without pay and were owned by other people) from Africa to America [60]

slogan – a phrase that many people repeat as a message about what they want to do or change [54, 82]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

soldier – a person who fights in the military; a person who fights in a war [32, 61, 72, 73]

solution – a way to fix a problem; an answer to a problem [17]

to solve – to find an answer or solution to something; to fix something [65, 67]

spangled – covered with something that is shiny and captures one's interest [98]

to speak up – to say something; to express one's opinion [53]

species – a type of plant or animal [88]

to specify (something) – to make something clear, specific, and detailed [41]

speech – a presentation spoken to many people [85]

spokesperson – a person who officially represents and communicates to the public for a business, organization, or group [18]

spread – growth; expansion; increase [83]

staggered – beginning and ending at different times [19]

standard – unchanging; the same every time [70]

to standardize – to make the same; to make many different things become the same in some way [54]

State of the Union Address – a long speech made by the U.S president every year about how well the country is doing that year [31]

stock market – the place where ownership in companies is bought and sold as a way to make money [86]

to stretch – to reach from one place to another, usually over a long distance [93]

to struggle with (something) – to have problems with something; to have difficulty doing or understanding something [84]

submarine – a large boat that travels under the water where it cannot be seen [79]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

succession – the plan for who will become the next person to work in a particular job when the current person can no longer do the job [30, 31]

suffrage – the right to vote; the freedom to be allowed to vote [48, 77]

to summarize – to say the most important ideas in fewer words [23]

to summon (someone) – for someone with power or authority to tell someone else to come to a particular place at a particular time [49]

superpower – one of the world's most powerful and richest countries [83]

supplies – things that people need to survive; things and equipment needed for a project [90]

supply and demand – a way of talking about how much of a thing exists, how many people want to have that thing, and how much they are willing to pay for it [11]

supreme – highest; most powerful; most important; best; the biggest possible [1]

Supreme Court – the highest, most powerful court in the United States [13, 38]

Supreme Court justice – a judge on the supreme court, which is the most powerful court in the United States [14]

surprised – shocked because something happened but was not expected [20]

to survive – to continue to exist; to live through danger or a difficult situation [64, 89]

swampland – very wet earth; land with a lot of water in it [44]

to sway – to move slowly from side to side [95]

swearing-in ceremony – a public event where a person states that he or she will do certain things, and then officially becomes the person in a public position [30]

swivel chair – a chair that can turn in circles while a person is sitting on it [62]

symbol – a picture or photograph that makes one think about something else or that represents something else [95]

symbolism – representation of an idea or thing by a picture or image [96]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

symbolized – represented by a picture, image, or something else [45]

synonymous with (something) – with the same meaning as something else [9]

system – a way of doing something; a set of procedures or steps for how things should be done [14]

tablet – a large piece of stone with writing that has been carved or cut into it [95]

to take advantage of (something) – to use an opportunity to get the most or best of something [46]

to take place – to happen; to occur [27]

to tax – to make citizens pay money to the government so that it can pay for services and other things for the country [8]

tax refund – money that is returned to a person from the government because he or she has paid too much in taxes [56]

taxation without representation – a system where a group of people paying money to a government when they cannot give their opinion to that government [61]

taxes – money that people and businesses pay to the government so that it can do good things for its citizens [50, 61]

temperance movement – the actions of a group of people who believed that people should drink very little or no alcohol [77]

temple – a holy place that people build for their gods [38]

temporary – for a short period of time [44]

term – the length of time that a person has a job [19, 22, 26, 47]

term limit – the maximum number of years that a person can work in a particular job [15, 22]

term of office – the length of time that a person has a job; the amount of time that someone is allowed to have a job [15]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

territory – an area of land that belongs to the United States but is not a state [21, 71, 91]

terror – fear caused by another group of people because of violence or the possibility of violence [32]

terrorism – violence that is used against people to try to scare them [86]

threat – a statement about a bad thing that will happen if something else does not happen [83]

three-day weekend – a period of time when a holiday is celebrated on a Monday or Friday and people who normally do not work on Saturday or Sunday have three days away from work [100]

time off – permission to not come to work for a specific period of time [49]

time-consuming – taking a lot of time; needing or requiring a lot of time [23]

title – the name of one's job; the way that a person is referred to [36]

tobacco – a plant whose leaves are smoked in cigarettes [64]

tolerance – the ability to live with people who are very different from oneself and/or do things that one does not agree with [64]

torch – a long stick that has fire on one end to make light [95]

torn in two – strongly divided; broken into two parts [76]

totalitarianism – a type of government in which almost everything is controlled by the government [12]

to trade – to buy and sell things, usually between countries or states [72, 74]

tradition – the way things have always been done; something that is done the same way every time [97, 99]

traditional values – things that have historically been very important to people, like strong families, little immigration, and the right to own guns [45]

transaction – a sale; an exchange of money between a buyer and seller [71]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

transcontinental railroad – the road for trains that goes across all of North America [89]

to transfer (something) – to change the ownership of something [93]

to transport (something) – to move things from one place to another, usually over a large distance [71]

treaty – an international agreement; an agreement between different countries [41, 72]

trial by jury – a lawsuit in a court where a small group of people decides whether or not a person has done something against the law [5, 49]

tribe – a group of Native Americans who live together and have the same culture, customs, and language [87]

to turn to (something) – to look at, read, or use something, especially to find information when one is researching something else [94]

turnover rate – how often employees leave and new people take their place in an organization or business [39]

unalienable rights – rights (powers and abilities) that all people should have and that should never be taken away by anyone or any government [9]

unanimously – with everyone in agreement; with everyone making the same decision [69, 70]

uncharted – unexplored; not known in very much detail; unfamiliar [71, 88]

unconstitutional – against the Constitution; against the law [10, 34, 37]

undecided voter – a person who hasn't yet decided whom he or she will vote for [55]

unemployed – people who cannot get a job [80]

unfair – not treating people equally [94]

unheard of – unknown; unusual; very unlikely to happen [59]

unicameral – with only one part or group; an organization with only one major part [17]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

unified – as one group; together [1, 66]

unincorporated – land that is not officially part of a city, country, or business [91]

unintended – unexpected; not intentional; not planned; not meant to happen [54]

unique to (something or someone) – not found anywhere else; found only in one person or thing [100]

united – made of one piece, without many separate parts; joined [52, 75]

unpopular – not popular; not liked by very many people [78]

upset – angry; mad [72]

vacancy – an open position; an opening, especially in an organization [19]

vacant – empty; without anyone working in a particular position or job [29]

vague – unclear; hazy; difficult to understand; not specific or detailed [9]

veteran – a person who has fought in a war [100]

to veto – to vote against something; to reject something, especially so that it cannot become a law [4, 33, 34]

veto – to reject; to cancel; to say that something should not be allowed to happen [14]

to violate – to do something that is not allowed; to break a rule or law; to go against a rule or law [5, 10]

virtually – almost; nearly; practically [18]

voluntary – optional; something that one chooses to do but does not have to do [57]

to vote – to say whom one would like to have enter a public office; to say whom one would like to have work in a public job [27]

to vote in favor of (something) – to vote for something; to vote "yes" on something; to vote to approve something [4]



**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

voter registration card – a form that one writes information on to be allowed to vote [27]

voting booth – a place where people go to vote; a tall box or area with one open side where people go to vote [27]

voting record – a list of how a person has voted on all decisions during a certain period of time [23]

vulnerable – weak and feeling that one can be hurt easily by other people [86]

war hero – a person who fought very well and very bravely in a war and is admired because of it [82]

to watch over (something) – to take care of something; to be responsible for something [52]

weak – not strong; not having much power [80]

wealthy – rich; with a lot of money [1]

to weave – to make fabrics and other things by crossing colored threads in certain ways to make designs [87]

to weep – to cry [76]

what-if scenario – an imaginary description of what might happen if certain other things happen [31]

wheel ruts – deep marks in the ground that are made by heavy vehicles or other things that are pulled on wheels [89]

to whip – to hit a person with a long piece of leather to cut a person's body and cause pain [60]

widespread – common and found in most places or almost everywhere [10]

to wield – to hold or use [15]

withholdings – money that a worker never sees because the employer sends it directly to the government to pay for the worker's taxes [56]



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**Becoming an American:
The U.S. Naturalization Test**

to work out the differences – to find a way to agree on something [16]

zoning – land use; the way that land may be used for specific purposes [42]