



# Political Cartoons Thrive in Heated US Presidential Campaign

Discussion > Advanced 9



## Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

<b>exhibit</b>	An object or collection of objects on public display in an art gallery or museum.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Let's go see the new dinosaur <b>exhibit</b>.</i>

<b>hypocrisy</b>	Behavior in which somebody pretends to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have.
[noun]	<i>Ex: His pretense of being offended by the show's content was mere <b>hypocrisy</b>.</i>

<b>insightful</b>	Showing a clear understanding of a person or situation.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: The political science class preferred, over the superficial notes in their text, the <b>insightful</b> comments provided by their professor.</i>

<b>inherent</b>	That is a basic or permanent part of somebody/something and that cannot be removed.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Many victims of crime have an <b>inherent</b> hatred for criminals.</i>

<b>consensus</b>	An opinion that all members of a group agree with.
[noun]	<i>Ex: We were not able to reach a <b>consensus</b> in the meeting.</i>



## Exercise 2 – Reading

*Read the text aloud with your tutor and discuss the key points.*

### **Political Cartoons Thrive in Heated US Presidential Campaign**

Political cartoons have been around for hundreds of years. Matt Wuerker, a cartoonist for the multimedia news organization Politico, said they can be very effective, helping to point out hypocrisies and stupidities.

“If you can combine a funny image with maybe an insightful commentary about the political process, it’s something people seem to enjoy,” he said.

Art Soiree, an art exhibition organization, held its sixth annual political cartoon exhibit in Washington on February 19-20.

More than 100 cartoons were on display at the exhibit, which drew a large crowd. Republican businessman Donald Trump was the subject of more illustrations than any other presidential candidate.



“Trump is actually possibly going to be the Republican nominee,” said Washington Post cartoonist Tom Toles. “That makes him the primary focus of attention.”

Toles, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his work, said that in political cartoons, irony and criticism go hand-in-hand.

Visitor Matthew Clifford said he found the exhibit entertaining and useful.

“Having the opportunity to come together, get all sorts of people in the same room, and to be able to look at things that make us laugh together, things that will allow us to understand the humor inherent to the process, it’s always going to be healthy,” he said. “Hopefully, that can help us come to greater consensus on a number of issues.”

In some countries, targeting political leaders in cartoons can land an artist in jail. Politico’s Wuerker said the best thing about democracy and freedom of speech is being able to freely make fun of politicians who understand that it’s part of the process.

“It’s healthy when you can laugh at the leaders and leaders hopefully can laugh along, too,” he said. “I can draw anything I want about the president of the United States, and he can’t throw me in jail. I can draw anything I want about Donald Trump, and all he can do is send some mean tweets about it.”



## Exercise 3 – Discussion

*Discuss the following questions with your tutor.*

1. What do you think about political cartoons and comics?
2. Do you have such cartoons in your country? If so, what can you say about them?
3. Do you like to read comic books? Why or why not?
4. What kind of humor do you think appeals to most people? Why?
5. Why do you think people say that humor is the best medicine?
6. What is special about the sense of humor in your country? What makes it unique?
7. What do you think of stand-up comedy shows? Why do people find live comedy to be so enticing?
8. Do you think that comedy can sometimes border on cruelty? Why or why not?