



A person wearing a maroon t-shirt is holding a black clapperboard with white text. The clapperboard has a black leather strap with two silver rivets on the left side. The text on the clapperboard reads "ESPACE PRIVÉ ET ESPACE PUBLIC" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, followed by "UNIT 3 | INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE" and "UNIT 4 | BETTER TOGETHER?" in smaller white capital letters.

ESPACE PRIVÉ
ET ESPACE PUBLIC

UNIT 3 | INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE
UNIT 4 | BETTER TOGETHER?

3

Inside the White House

ESPACE PRIVÉ ET ESPACE PUBLIC

Is the White House a family home
or a national symbol?



↑ Veep, Season 1 (2014)

SCENARIO

The White House is the official residence of the American President. As soon as Inauguration Day is over, the president moves into the White House. The mansion is both the place where presidents live with their family and the place where they work.

FINAL TASK

Introduce a group of visitors to the White House

ANTICIPATE

- a. Say what words and expressions you associate with the White House.

To me, the White House is mainly a symbol of...

- b. Look at the still from "Veep". Do you know what a "Veep" is?

I'm not sure but maybe...
She must be...
I guess it is...

prof. 15
élève 12

- iconic /aɪ'kɒnɪk/
- the Oval Office: le bureau du président
- the President ≠ the Vice President
- the West Wing = the part of the White House that houses the offices of the President
- the world's most famous residence
- to be a symbol of

DOCUMENTS

1 A house or a home?

President John F. Kennedy playing in the Oval Office with his children (1962) ↗



↑ President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump in the Oval Office (2017)



↑ Demonstrators protesting against the President in front of the White House (2018)

a. **Read** the title of the activity.

Discuss: What is the difference between a house and a home?

b. **Look at** the pictures and **read** the captions.

Is the White House a house or a home?

c. **Read** the quotes.

Explain them in your own words.

William Seale means that the White House is...



d. **Imagine** you post one of these pictures on Instagram.

Write a short comment (it can be ironic, descriptive...) and a hashtag.

React to your classmates' posts.

“ From the moment it was occupied, the White House was a stage of history, and the curtain has never fallen.”

↑ William Seale, historian and author of “The President’s House: A history” (2008)

“ The White House is the finest prison in the world.”

↑ Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States (from 1945 to 1953)

2 A fascinating history

For almost 200 years, the White House has stood as a symbol of the Presidency, the United States government, and the American people. Its history, and the history of the nation's capital, began when 5 President George Washington signed an Act of Congress in December of 1790 declaring that the federal government would reside in a district "not exceeding ten miles square... on the river Potomac." President Washington, together with city planner 10 Pierre L'Enfant, chose the site for the new residence, which is now 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. (...)

Construction began when the first cornerstone was laid in October of 1792. Although President Washington oversaw the construction of the house, he 15 never lived in it. It was not until 1800, when the White House was nearly completed, that its first residents, President John Adams and his wife Abigail, moved in. Since that time, each President has made his own changes and additions. The White 20 House is, after all, the President's private home. It is also the only private residence of a Head of State that is open to the public free of charge.

The White House has a unique and fascinating history. It survived a fire at the hands of the British

25 in 1814 during the War of 1812, and another fire in the West Wing in 1929 while Herbert Hoover was President. Throughout much of Harry S. Truman's presidency, the interior of the house was completely renovated. Nonetheless, the 30 exterior stone walls are those first put in place when the White House was constructed two centuries ago.

Presidents can express their individual style in how they decorate the house and in how they 35 receive the public during their stay. Thomas Jefferson held the first Inaugural open house in 1805. Many of those who attended the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol simply followed him home, where he greeted them in the Blue Room. President Jefferson also opened the house 40 for public tours, and it has remained open, except during wartime, ever since. (...)

President Clinton's open house on January 21, 1993, renewed a venerable White House Inaugural tradition. Two thousand citizens, selected by 45 lottery, were greeted in the Diplomatic Reception Room by the President and Mrs. Clinton and the Vice President and Mrs. Gore.

Clinton White House Archives

a. Read the text.

What information strikes you the most?

It's fascinating to learn that...
I find it interesting that...
I didn't know that...

b. Say how Presidents can leave their mark on the mansion.

MEDIATION



c. Create a timeline of the White House.

Choose pictures to illustrate it.

Hang your timelines in the school hall so that other students can learn about the White House.

Provide a visitors' book for people who want to comment on the exhibition.

prof. 16
élève 13

- **administration** = government
- a Head of State = a president, a queen, etc.
- an icon = a strong symbol
- POTUS = an acronym for "President of the USA"
- the Secret Service = the President's protection service
- to be in the spotlight: être sous les projecteurs
- to feel trapped /træpt/
- to move in ≠ to move out
- to renovate = to restore
- to stand for = to represent

• **Le superlatif** ➔ p. 185

The White House is **the most** famous presidential residence in the world.

• **Les subordonnées de temps** ➔ p. 197

While the White House was being built, people didn't imagine it would become such a symbol.
When the new First Family moves in, they redecorate the White House.

As soon as he became President, he started to think about renovating the interiors.

3 A tour of the West Wing



↑ Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy in the film "Jackie" (2016)

ANTICIPATE ➤

- Look at** the image above and the still.
Describe the style and atmosphere of living in the White House.
It looks very...
- Watch** the video.
Complete the notes you have taken.
- Watch** the video again.
Focus on the National Park Ranger's explanation.
Write down the different definitions he gives of the White House.
- Present** the renovation of the West Wing in your own words.



VIDEO

vidéo 05



↑ West Wing renovation, The White House (2017)

prof. 18
élève 15

TRAIN YOUR VOICE



La prononciation du « y »

- Écoutez et répétez** ces mots en vous concentrant sur les lettres en vert.
history lobby trying
- Classez** les mots précédents en fonction de la prononciation du « y » : /i:/ ou /aɪ/.
Ajoutez d'autres mots à la liste.

• Le present perfect ➡ p. 188

They **have renovated** the West Wing.
They **have selected** new pieces of furniture.

- prof. 17
élève 14
- **contemporary** = modern
 - **refined** /rɪ'faɪnd/ = elegant
 - **spacious** /'speɪʃəs/
 - **traditional** ≈ old-fashioned
 - **an antique** = an old, valuable object
 - **a piece of furniture** /'fɜːmɪtʃər/: un meuble
 - **to redecorate** = to change in appearance
 - **to symbolize**

VOCABULARY

→ Banque d'exercices p. 160



THE CENTRAL BUILDING = THE EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE

a private residence

to be comfortable

to feel at home

to move in

MAIN ROOMS

the Blue Room

the Family Dining Room

THE WEST WING: office space for the President

MAIN ROOMS

the Cabinet Room

the Oval Office



THE EAST WING: office space for the First Lady

an iconic | place

a historical

a place of power

a stage of history

a symbol of | democracy

freedom

to stand as a symbol

= to symbolize

A HOME

A POLITICAL BUILDING

A SYMBOL

THE WHITE HOUSE

STYLE

AN OPEN PLACE

A PRISON

contemporary = modern

luxurious > elegant

spacious = big and open

traditional ≈ old-fashioned

an antique

a piece of furniture

to express one's style

to make | additions
changes

to | (re)decorate | the house
renovate | the interior

to be open to the public

= to receive visitors

= to open the doors

to give a tour = to show around

a golden cage

the Secret Service

to feel | like a prisoner
trapped

to have bodyguards

to live under | constant scrutiny
pressure
strict rules

Make your own mind map

Make a mind map with the words and expressions that you would use if you had to give a tour of the White House for European students.

PREPARATION TIME

How to be the most interesting tour guide ever

Vous voici promu(e) spécialiste officiel(le) de la Maison Blanche ! Pour ne pas faillir à votre tâche, suivez les conseils ci-dessous.

• Préparez votre texte

- a. Cherchez dans l'unité les informations dont vous aurez besoin pour chaque partie de votre présentation. Sélectionnez les plus pertinentes.

Laquelle de ces informations vous semble la plus intéressante pour les visiteurs ? Pourquoi ?

1. **The construction of the White House started in 1792.**
2. **Jackie Kennedy gave a televised tour of the White House in 1962.**
3. **Melania Trump used to be a model.**

- b. Pour organiser vos informations de façon cohérente, aidez-vous de la carte mentale de la page 43. Elle vous permettra également de sélectionner le vocabulaire utile à votre présentation.

Classez chacun de ces mots et expressions dans l'une des trois catégories.

to survive a fire
to renovate the interior
the President of the USA
to be constructed

the First Lady
the West Wing
to move in
the Oval Office

The history	The residents	The highlights

- c. Si vous avez peur d'oublier des éléments, vous pouvez rédiger entièrement votre texte. Dans ce cas, mémorisez-le car vous ne devez jamais lire l'intégralité d'une présentation !
- d. Si vous vous sentez suffisamment à l'aise, préparez quelques fiches avec les éléments principaux de chacune de vos parties.

• Entraînez-vous

- a. Répétez votre texte, si possible devant un miroir, en faisant comme si vous étiez réellement devant un groupe d'étudiants.
- b. Dès que vous êtes à l'aise avec le contenu de votre présentation, enregistrez-vous afin de travailler votre rythme, votre prononciation et votre ton. Vous pouvez vous répéter en binôme pour avoir un avis extérieur.

• Entrez dans la peau de votre personnage

- a. Souvenez-vous : vous êtes mandaté(e) par l'ambassade de France ! Appropriez-vous votre rôle et assurez-vous d'avoir l'air aussi professionnel(le) que possible.
- b. Prenez votre temps : on vous comprendra mieux si vous faites des pauses régulières.
- c. N'hésitez pas à inscrire au tableau les éléments les plus importants (personnes, dates) pour faciliter la compréhension de votre auditoire.
- d. Faites intervenir votre public : posez-lui des questions !

TRAIN YOUR VOICE

L'accent de phrase (2)

prof. 19
élève 16

- 1** Le rythme si typique de l'anglais vient de l'alternance de mots accentués (ceux qui ont un sens important dans la phrase) et de mots non accentués (les mots grammaticaux). **Écoutez cette phrase. Notez** les mots qui ressortent le plus.

At various times in history, the White House has been known as the “President’s Palace”, “President’s House” and the “Executive Mansion”.

- 2** Lisez la phrase suivante à haute voix, en accentuant bien les mots porteurs de sens.

The White House is both the home of the President of the United States and his family, and a museum of American history. It is a place where history continues to unfold.



FINAL TASK



INTRODUCE A GROUP OF VISITORS TO THE WHITE HOUSE



You are doing an internship at the French embassy in Washington D.C. You have been asked to prepare a short presentation of the White House for a group of European students who are going to visit the residence.

- a. **Look at** the map of the White House that your teacher will give you.
- b. **Browse** through the unit and **write** a first draft of your presentation.
It should include:
 - the building and its history (residents, style, dates, curious facts);
 - what the White House symbolises in the American culture;
 - what visitors will see during the visit (the different parts and rooms of the residence...).
- c. **Practise** saying your presentation out loud.
- d. **Perform** your speech in front of your classmates.
Be ready to answer questions if needed.

- Fiche Grille éval. ▾
- Fiche Grille autoéval. ▾
- Fiche Doc. support ▾

Welcome to the White House everybody! My name is Virginie and I'll be your host today.

The White House is no ordinary house! It stands for leadership, freedom and democracy. It is also a symbol of...

We will start the tour in... From there we will go to...