

Unit3: US Politics and the 2022 midterm elections



Chapter 3 = Politics and citizenship (L'Anglais contemporain) / by Eugénie and Nicolas

Phono/pronunciation : rappel sur son en/em et suffixe -al / début sur liaisons-réductions/ règle générale sur accentuation (mots de 2 syllabes)

1) Vocabulary :

| French | English | French | English |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| LES Etats-Unis | THE US/ THE USA/ THE United States | L'Amérique/ américain | θ [e] America [e] American |
| un gouvernement | a government [t] | militantisme | activism [izm] |
| un chef d'Etat | a head of state [ei] | le congrès du parti | the party conference |
| un dirigeant | a leader [i:] | fonder un parti | (to) found a party |
| un citoyen | a citizen | Financer un partie | (to) fund a party |
| un pays | a country [eu]= keN | un responsable du parti | a party official [o/el] |
| un état | a state [ei] | la base (les militants) | the rank-and-file [ai] |
| diriger un pays | (to) run /rule/lead [i:] a country [eN] | adhérer (à un parti) | (to) join (a party) [dj] |
| Federal | Federal [o/el] | distribuer ds tracts | (to) hand out tracts |
| en place, au pouvoir | in power [pa] | une tendance politique | a political [o/el] leaning [i:] |
| Démocratie | Democracy (“o” as in “cop”) | un soutien | a [e] support |
| Légitimité | Legitimacy [eci] | l'accord/le désaccord | [e] agreement/disagreement |
| séparation des pouvoirs | Separation [sèpeREchn] of powers [pa] | soutenir | (to) support [e] |
| la Constitution | the Constitution [chn] | prendre parti pour | (to) take sides with |
| un Démocrate | a Democrat | s'opposer à | (to) oppose sth (something) |
| un Républicain | a Republican | remettre en q° | (to) challenge/ call sth into question [kwestyen] |
| Démocratique | democratic | un système électoral | a voting system |
| Républicain | republican | un vote à bulletin secret | a secret ballot |
| succéder à qqn | (to) succeed sb [e] [i:] | le droit de vote | the right to vote |
| une dictature | θ dictatorship [ei] | les élections primaires (us) | The Primaries [è] [ai] |
| Censure | θ censorship [e] | L'élections présidentielle | the presidential election [o/el] [chn] |
| les pleins pouvoirs | full powers [pa] | les élections municipales | local elections [chnz] |
| le conservatism | θ conservatism [izm] | appeler aux urnes | (to) call an election [chn] |
| Conservateur | conservative | une circonscription | a constituency |
| de gauche | left-wing | un candidat | a candidate [ei] |
| de droite | right-wing | un concurrent | a contender /a contender |
| le parti au pouvoir | the ruling party | un sondage d'opinion | an opinion poll /pəʊl/ |
| un parti d'opposition | an opposition [chn] [o] [ə] party | se présenter à ds élec°/ à ds élec° présidentielles | (to) run for office/ run for president |
| un programme (politique) | a platform | faire campagne | (to) campaign |
| le financement | [ai] Financing/ funding | faire du porte à porte électoral | (to) canvas a district |

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|---|--|---|---|
| les membres du party | (the) party members | prendre un bain de foule | (to) press the flesh |
| un chef de file | a party leader [i:] | faire un discours | (to) deliver a speech [i:tch] |
| un militant | an activist | flatter/courtiser les élect. | (to) woo voters |
| une victoire écrasante | a landslide victory [ai] [e] | Sitting (pour le president sortant) | sitting |
| remporter les élections | (to) win the election [chn] | la participation | the turnout |
| une polémique | a controversy (uk :2 nd syll) | arriver au pouvoir | (to) come into office/power [pa] |
| Polémique/controversé | Controversial [cho/el] [e] | faire des donations à | (to) make donations to [ei] |
| Déclencher la polémique/ faire scandale | (to) spark controversy | préconiser | (to) advocate |
| Lancer une campagne | (to) launch a campaign | critiquer | (to) criticize |
| Un débat télévisé | a tv debate [ei] | Une candidature | a candidacy [eci] |
| Un défenseur de... | an advocate of... | La cote de popularity | Popularity rating |
| Un homme politique | a politician [chn] [« o » as in « cop »] | Un slogan | a slogan |
| La politique (en gral) | Ø politics | Etre d'accord avec/ ne pas être d'accord | (to) [e] agree with/ disagree with (be agree with) |
| une politique (= une mesure) | a policy [« o » as in « cop »] | |  |
| Politique (adjf) | political (politie) | | |

American political system

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| le Congrès | Ø Congress [kɔŋ] | un ministre (us) | a secretary (uk : a minister) |
| un membre du Congrès | a congressman/woman [kɔŋ] | un projet de loi (ou une facture !) | a bill |
| la Chambre des Représentants | the House of Representatives | faire pression | (to) lobby [« o » as « cop »] |
| le Sénat | the Senate | le ministre de la Justice us | the Attorney General [ɔl/el] [e] [er] [djè] |
| le Ministre des affaires étrangères us | the State Secretary [ei] (uk : 1st syll) | le ministre des finances us | the Treasury Secretary [è] [j] (uk : 1st syll) |
| élections pour être gouverneur | gubernatorial elections [gou] | les pouvoirs et contre-pouvoirs | the checks and balances [tch] [n] |
| Un mandat (pr un président, etc) | A term | Faire basculer une élection | (to) sway an election [chn] [ei] |
| Les élections de mi-mandat | The midterms/ the midterm election [chn] | | |

2) Cultural references and necessary background to have a better grasp of the theme under study :

-résumé de la fiche 1 (The Constitution) p233 : (livre de l'an passé)

-“life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” = words present in the Declaration of Independence (1776)

The US has kept the same founding document – **the Constitution** – since 1787, altering it 17 times only with **amendments**

The Constitution was written by **the Founding Fathers** (les Pères Fondateurs, qui ont créé le pays, à ne pas mélanger avec les Pilgrim Fathers ou Pères Pèlerins qui ont émigré d'Angleterre en 1620)

-From independence to the making of a nation:

in 1781: articles of Confederation

1787 : the Constitution

-Key facts about the American political system:

creating a two-level system of government, carefully sharing out the rights and the duties of each to avoid tyranny. = checks and balances system

key words in the American Constitution: "we the people" (premiers mots) / "all men are created equal"

The Constitution defines the federal government with its three branches (the legislative, the executive and the judiciary)

The Separation of power:

The checks and balances system ensures that no single branch of power gains too much power or dominates the other two.

The possibility of change :

If the American people (people) wants to amend the Constitution, they can use the amendment process. ex 2nd amendment right to bear arms/ 13th amendment (emancipation of slaves)/19th voting rights for women

The Supreme Court:

The Constitution is made flexible through another means: the Supreme Court. The nine judges (or Justices) are the interpreters of the Constitution: they can decide whether (if) acts or laws are in keeping with the Constitution.

-cf livre de civi p135-142 (*The Cultural Guide*) : complétez avec les idées essentielles

