

# What's on the US Citizenship Test?



## Speaking

### The officer will go over personal background information (from your N-400 application form)

- The officer is required to repeat and rephrase any questions that you don't understand (don't be afraid to ask the officer to explain something or to say it again).
- Make sure you understand the question—don't guess.
- Tell the truth, and keep it short--don't give long explanations.
- Be consistent--make sure that what you say matches up with what is written on your application.
- Your pronunciation and grammar do not have to be perfect.
- You can prepare for the speaking test by looking at a copy of your N-400 application. If you don't understand a question, get someone to translate it for you. Practice saying your answers.



## Reading

### The officer will ask you to read one sentence aloud

- The sentence will be in the form of a question. (for example: *Who was the first president?*)
- USCIS does not share the reading test sentences--only the individual words. But you can find the sentences in **Citizenship: Passing the Test** on p. 176.
- You do not need to answer the question--you only have to read it aloud.
- If you cannot read the question, the officer will give you a second, and even a third question to read. If you can read any one of the three questions, you will pass the reading test.
- Your pronunciation does not have to be perfect..
- You can prepare for the reading test by reading the questions aloud to someone.



## Writing

### The officer will give you a lined sheet of paper and ask you to write what you hear

- The officer will dictate one sentence. (for example: *Washington was the first president.*)
- USCIS does not share the dictation sentences--only the individual words. But you can find the sentences in **Citizenship: Passing the Test** on p. 177.
- You can ask the officer to repeat the sentence, or to say it slowly.
- If you cannot write the sentence, the officer will give you a second, and even a third sentence to write. If you can write any one of the three sentences, you will pass the writing test.
- You do not need to write the sentence perfectly. If you don't know how to spell a word, take a guess. You can pass the test even if you make small spelling mistakes.
- You can prepare for the writing test by asking someone to read the sentences to you. Write the words you hear, then check your spelling.



## Civics

### The officer will ask you 10 questions from the list of 100 study questions

- Questions and answers are spoken (not written).
- You can ask the officer to repeat the question, or to speak slowly.
- If you can answer six questions, you will pass the civics test..
- Some of the questions have more than one possible answer. The official USCIS question list has all of the acceptable answers, but *you do not need to learn all of them!*
- You can prepare for the civics test by asking someone to read the questions to you (or listen to the questions on CD). Check your answers.

If you fail any part of the test, you will be scheduled for a new test (with a different examiner) within three months. The retest is free, and will only cover the part(s) of the test that you failed the first time. Keep in mind that it is possible to pass the test, but still be denied citizenship. This can happen if the officer finds that you do not meet the legal requirements for citizenship.