

Change We Can Believe In



American Quiz

Complete these sentences with the correct choices.

1. The election of the President of the United States is held every _____ years.
a. four b. two c. eight
2. U.S. presidential elections are held in _____.
a. October b. November c. January
3. A new president is sworn into office on _____.
a. January 1 b. January 15 c. January 20
4. President Obama is a(n) _____.
a. Democrat b. Republican c. Independent
5. The room in the White House where the president works and holds meetings is called the _____.
a. Home Room b. Oval Office c. Command Post

Reading

Read this passage carefully.



As I write this, Barack Obama has been President of the United States less than three weeks. The whole world seems to be wrapped up in Obama-mania. Everyone is talking about him. Everyone has great expectations for him. Everyone has placed great faith in the promises he has made.

5 By the time you read this, Barack Obama will have been president for over a year. Is he living up to his expectations? Is he keeping his word? Obama's campaign slogan was "Change we can believe in." In his inaugural address, the new president spelled out his vision for the future. "All this we can do," he said. "And all this we will do." What exactly did Obama mean by "all this"?

10 Domestically, Obama promised to tackle the current economic crisis not only by creating new jobs, but by laying a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. As for the environment and energy, President Obama promised to harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. He also pledged to restore science to its rightful place and to use the power of technology to raise the quality of healthcare in America and lower its cost. And he gave his word that he would transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age.

20 As for America's role abroad, the new president told the Muslim world that "we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and respect." And to the people of poor nations, Obama swore to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.

25 These are big promises, not easy to realize. But since you are living in the future, so to speak, you know better than I do how the 44th president is doing. So you tell me: Is he actually bringing about change we can believe in?

NOTES

be wrapped up in "Obama-mania" 『『オバマ狂』に夢中になっている』 living up to his expectations 「期待に添う」 keeping his word 「約束を守る」 inaugural address 「就任演説」 spelled out his vision for the future 「自分の未来図を具体的に述べた」 restore science to its rightful place 「科学を本来あるべき地位に戻す」 gave his word that . . . 「…と約束した」 to meet the demands of a new age 「新しい時代の要求に合うように」

Reading for Information

As you read and listen to the sentences below, fill in the blanks. Then circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.



1. T F Barack Obama is America's _____ president.
2. T F His _____ slogan was, 'We _____ do all this.'
3. T F _____ new jobs is one way President Obama promised to deal with the current _____ crisis.
4. T F Obama thinks we need to get more _____ from the _____ and _____.
5. T F He thinks American healthcare is too _____.
6. T F In his inaugural address, Obama promised to 'work _____' the Muslim nations.
7. T F By 'feed _____ minds,' Obama meant education.

Words In Context

Find words in the essay that match these synonyms or definitions. Write the words on the lines.

1. _____ 'trust' (line 4)
2. _____ 'sight' or 'idea for the future' (line 8)
3. _____ 'the opposite of abroad' (line 10)
4. _____ 'something to build upon' (line 11)
5. _____ 'change completely' (line 18)
6. _____ 'each other' (line 21)
7. _____ 'do well' or 'be successful' (line 23)

Word Formation

Fill in the blank in each sentence below with the correct form of a word you wrote above.

1. The president's promises are _____ on hope.
2. He has been a _____ friend for many years.
3. He has some _____ plans for our company.
4. The new contract proved to be _____ beneficial.
5. This year's crops are _____ thanks to the weather.
6. The staff underwent a complete _____.
7. Our _____ security depends on our foreign policy.

Pattern Practice

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the correct words.

1. _____ I was walking to work, it began to snow.
2. _____ the time I arrived home, everyone was sleeping.
3. What do you mean _____ (sooner or later)?
4. We placed all our trust _____ your judgment.
5. The house was restored _____ its original condition.
6. His decision was based _____ new information.

Writing with Idioms

Rewrite the sentences below by substituting one of these expressions for the underlined part of each sentence. Make other changes as needed.

keep one's word bring about spell out live up to

1. He had a hard time making his parents' dreams for him come true.
2. The process is explained in detail in the user's manual.
3. James always did what he said he was going to do.
4. What caused the accident?

Listening

As you read and listen to the dialogue below, fill in the blanks.



- A: Did you _____ to _____ Obama's inaugural _____?
- B: No, I'm _____ I _____ it. I fell _____ and _____ right _____ it. But I watched it _____ on the news.
- A: What did you _____ of it? Did it _____ up to your _____?
- B: I thought he _____ everything quite _____. I especially liked the part where he said, "What is _____ of us now is a new era of _____."