



# English Requirements and Exemptions for Citizenship

## English requirements

To become a U.S. citizen, you must:

1. **Understand and answer** questions about your citizenship application in English
2. **Read** 1 out of 3 English sentences
3. **Write** 1 out of 3 English sentences
4. **Study** the civics test (100 questions about U.S. history and government, and answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly), and
5. **Understand** the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. and take it at a public ceremony

## Exemptions to English requirements

### **Are you at least 50 years old?**

- You do not take the English tests if you have had your green card for **at least 20 years**.
- You must take the civics test in your own language.

### **Are you at least 55 years old?**

- You do not take English tests if you have had your green card for **at least 15 years**.
- You must take the civics test in your own language.

### **Are you at least 65 years old?**

- You do not take the English tests if you have had your green card for **at least 20 years**.
- You must take an **easier** civics test in your own language. You study 20 questions.

### **Do you have a disability?**

- **You may get accommodations for the English and civics tests and your interview.**
  - If a disability makes it impossible to take the tests, you may apply for a disability waiver. Disability waivers are hard to get approved. **Your doctor must complete Form N-648 before you apply** and USCIS must accept the form at your interview.
    - Qualifying disabilities for a waiver affect the ability to learn. Examples may be dementia and memory problems, mental illnesses, and learning disabilities.
  - If you have another disability and need an accommodation at your interview, you may contact USCIS to ask for an accommodation.
- **You may not have to take the Oath of Allegiance.**
  - If your disability makes it impossible for you to understand and answer questions about your application in your language, you may request an oath waiver.
  - Your doctor must write a letter and you must have a **legal guardian or US citizen family member** answer questions for you at your interview.

