

You may have read that this Tuesday is Super Tuesday. What does that mean?

Background:

We will elect a new president this November. Two **candidates** will run for president, one from the Democratic Party and one from the Republican party. Sometimes there are “third party” candidates, but they usually do not get many votes.

The Democratic and Republican party are having **primaries** now. Primaries are elections in each state to decide who the candidate for their party will be. The Republican candidate needs 1,237 **delegates** out of the 2,340 possible. Democrats need 2,383 out of a possible 4,136. Currently, Donald Trump is winning for the Republicans with 82 delegates. Ted Cruz is in second with 17 and Marco Rubio is in third place with 16. In the Democratic party, Hilary Clinton has 544 to 85 for Bernie Sanders.

If no candidate wins the **nomination** outright, then the winner will be decided at the **convention**. This is called a brokered convention. Many people think the Republican convention will be a brokered convention.

So what is Super Tuesday:

Only a few states have had their primary elections. States are free to choose when they hold their primaries. Sometimes there are as many as 30 states voting on Super Tuesday. This Tuesday, 13 states will have their primary election. Texas is among them. Texas is an **open primary** state. That means anyone can vote in the Republican or Democratic primary. You don't have to be a “party member” to vote for that party. In closed primary states, you must **register** as a Democrat or Republican to vote in that primary. In the general election in November you can vote for either candidate, regardless of his party. This is true in both open and closed primary states.

Super Tuesday is important because in one day a candidate can earn a large number of delegates. On the Republican side, about 600 delegates will be awarded, and on the Democratic side about 800. Texas is the biggest delegate prize with 155 Republican delegates and 252 Democratic delegates at stake.

Ted Cruz is from Texas and is expected to win here, but Donald Trump is running strong in the **polls**. On the Democratic side, Hilary Clinton is expected to win.

Discuss:

Talk about elections in your country: Do you have political parties? How many parties are there? Who decides who the party nominee will be? Do you always vote? Only 58% of Americans voted in the 2012 presidential election. What is the percentage of people who vote in your country? How old do you have to be to vote? Is there any group that is not allowed to vote? Is your country having elections this year? Do you keep up with politics in your home country while living in the U.S.?

Choose the correct preposition (in, at or on).

1. Last night, I stayed (in/at) a hotel.
2. I bought gasoline (in/at) the gas station.

3. The doctor said my mother would need to stay (in/at) the hospital for another week.
4. She lives (in/at) the end of this street.
5. She lives (in/at) the house on the corner.
6. The trucks are parked (in/at) the driveway.
7. The man got (at/on) the bus on Grand Avenue.
8. I can't talk to you now. I'm _____ work.
9. I live _____ the house on the corner.
10. I am standing _____ the bus stop.
11. Look it up _____ the dictionary.
12. Look it up _____ page 120.
13. I hope we get to the bus stop _____ time.
14. I will meet Bill _____ 1:30.
15. I go to school _____ night.
16. My appointment is _____ 3 PM.
17. My birthday is _____ February 19th.
18. I will see you _____ Wednesday.
19. I can drive you to school _____ the morning.
20. Becky works _____ Saturdays.
21. I lived _____ Chicago _____ the 90's.
22. Let's go dancing _____ Saturday.
23. Jane stopped working _____ midnight.
24. We vacation _____ summer.
25. I'll see you _____ a few minutes.