

Read the story on page 88. Fill in the blanks in the story.

Last year, Fatima became a _____. Now she has the right to _____ for the first time in the local _____. For mayor, Clayton Davis is _____ Melissa Chang. Fatima reads about the _____ in her sample _____. She sees their pictures and reads information about them. She looks at their _____. She also reads about their plans to help her city. Fatima decides to _____ for Melissa Chang.

But Fatima also notices the political _____. There are many advertisements for the _____ on TV and on the radio. There are many advertisements in the _____. There are many _____ on the street and in apartment windows. Sometimes she gets _____ asking her to vote for either Clayton Davis or Melissa Chang.

In the advertisements for Clayton Davis, Melissa Chang seems like the _____ candidate for mayor. In the advertisements for Melissa Chang, Clayton Davis seems like the wrong candidate for mayor. Fatima is _____. Now she doesn't know who to vote for.

Three days before the election, Fatima watches a _____ on TV. She listens to the candidates talk for one hour. Fatima understands this more than the advertisements, the signs, and the phone calls. Now she knows who to vote for. Once again, Fatima decides to vote for Melissa Chang.

Questions:

- 1-When did Fatima become a citizen?
- 2-Can you vote in the U.S. if you are not a citizen?
- 3-When she listens to the advertisements for the candidates she gets confused. Why?

Circle the correct answer:

1. Fatima understands the candidates better after listening to (the radio, the TV, the advertisements, the debate).
2. A person who can legally vote in a country is a (citizen / candidate).
3. A person running for public office is a (candidate / ballot).
4. When people vote for political leaders it is called a(n) (debate / election).

5. The elected leader of a city is a (citizen / mayor).
6. A paper that shows who is running and what party they belong to is a (election / sample ballot).
7. At the election, you must fill out a (ballot / sample).

Discuss:

1. Does your city have a mayor? Is the mayor elected?
2. What are the names of the political parties in the U.S.?
3. How many political parties are there in your country?
4. How old do you have to be to vote in the U.S.? How old do you have to be to vote in your country?
5. Do you vote in all the elections? Why or why not?
6. In the U.S., we vote for a president every four years. How many years does the leader of your country serve?
7. In the U.S., a president may not serve more than two four year terms. Is this the same in your country?
8. We have a constitution. That is a written set of laws. The constitution can be amended (changed). Does your country have a constitution. Can people vote to amend (change) it?
9. Candidates advertise on TV. They say bad things about the other candidate. Do you think it is OK to say bad things about the other candidate?

Vocabulary:

+ELECT is a verb, but election is a noun. EX: We **elect** a president every four years in a nationwide **election**.

+ELECTORATE- all the people who are allowed to vote in an election EX: Constitutional amendments must be approved by two thirds of the **electorate**.

+VOTE is a verb. EX: I vote in every election. VOTE can also be a noun. There were more votes for the Democratic candidate than the Republican candidate. VOTER is a noun. A voter is someone who votes. EX: There were lots of voters in the last election. When you fill out a ballot and enter your choices, you CAST A VOTE.