



Guide to the **USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test Video**



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Guide to the USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test Video

The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test video is useful for self-study and classroom use. The online 16-minute video presents an overview of the naturalization process and test. In addition to general information, there are five simulated dialogues between USCIS officers and applicants during an interview. We recommend presenting the video to your class in sections, rather than all at once, particularly with students who need more listening comprehension practice. Focusing on one dialogue at a time is an effective way to do this.

Below are classroom activities highlighting the five dialogues. Intended for high beginning and low intermediate level classes, these activities focus on the four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They allow students to practice specific language from a dialogue in a meaningful way. Each activity includes: 1) suggested teaching instructions, 2) student handouts or classroom materials, 3) an answer key and transcript, and 4) one 8.5” x 11” visual of the scene. When planning your class session, choose the dialogue that corresponds to a lesson that you have recently taught.

Remind your students that the interview situations shown in the video are examples of what an applicant may experience at an actual interview. However, each person’s case is different so every naturalization interview is unique. The purpose of this video and these activities is to give a general idea of what to expect.

Dialogue 1 – Meeting and Greeting at the USCIS Office

Activity – Finish the Sentence

Dialogue 2 – Answering Questions from *Form N-400, Application for Naturalization*

Activity – Card Search

Dialogue 3 – Following Instructions

Activity – How Many Times Did You Hear That Word?

Dialogue 4 – Taking the Civics Test

Activity – What Happened?

Dialogue 5 – Taking the Reading and Writing Tests

Activity – Retell the Story

The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test video is available online in both the “Teachers” and “Learners” sections of the Citizenship Resource Center at www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

To access the video from the “Teachers” section:

1. Click on “Educational Products.”
2. Scroll down to “Videos.”
3. Click the icon for “USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test.”

To access the video from the “Learners” section:

1. Click on “Study for the Test.”
2. Click on “Study Materials for the English Test.”
3. Scroll down to “Videos.”
4. Click the icon for “USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test.”

Dialogue 1 – Meeting and Greeting at the USCIS Office

Student Handout – Finish the Sentence

Instructions to the Student: Watch the introduction between Officer Taylor and Mr. Torres at the USCIS office. Follow along with the written dialogue below. Listen for the missing words and fill in the blanks.

Setting: The applicant, Mr. Torres, is in the USCIS waiting room. Officer Taylor comes out and calls him in for his interview.



Finish the sentences:

Officer Taylor: Mr. Marcos Torres?

Mr. Torres: Yes, that's _____.

Officer Taylor: I'm Officer Taylor. I'll be conducting your interview _____.

Mr. Torres: Hello.

Officer Taylor: How _____ ?

Mr. Torres: I'm fine, _____.

Officer Taylor: Great. _____.

Officer Taylor: Please come inside. Feel free to put your belongings next to your chair, but please _____.

Officer Taylor: Before we begin the interview, I'll need to place you under oath. Please raise your _____.

Officer Taylor: Do you swear or affirm that the statements you will give today will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but _____ ?

Mr. Torres: I _____.

Officer Taylor: Thank you. Please _____.

For Teacher Use

Dialogue 1 – Meeting and Greeting at the USCIS Office

Answer Key – Finish the Sentence

Notes to the Teacher: This dialogue begins at about 5:10 on the video. In this scene, the applicant, Mr. Torres, is sitting in the USCIS waiting room when Officer Taylor comes out and calls him in for his interview. Before using the video in class, watch the scene yourself. Note any vocabulary your students might not understand and teach that vocabulary before doing the activity.

Instructions for the Classroom:

- Discuss the Dialogue 1 Visual, “Meeting and Greeting at the USCIS Office.”
- Distribute the handout and tell the students they will watch the scene several times.
- Explain that they will need to write down the words at the end of each sentence.
- Play the scene two or three times. This will give the students ample opportunity to hear and write the word or words to complete the sentences.
- Play the scene one more time and check the students’ work as a class.

Answer Key and Transcript for Dialogue 1

Officer Taylor: **Mr. Marcos Torres?**

Mr. Torres: **Yes, that’s me.**

Officer Taylor: **I’m Officer Taylor. I’ll be conducting your interview today.**

Mr. Torres: **Hello.**

Officer Taylor: **How are you doing?**

Mr. Torres: **I’m fine, thank you.**

Officer Taylor: **Great. Follow me.**

Officer Taylor: **Please come inside. Feel free to put your belongings next to your chair, but please remain standing.**

Officer Taylor: **Before we begin the interview, I’ll need to place you under oath. Please raise your right hand.**

Officer Taylor: **Do you swear or affirm that the statements you will give today will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?**

Mr. Torres: **I do.**

Officer Taylor: **Thank you. Please take a seat.**



Dialogue 1, "Meeting and Greeting at the USCIS Office"

For Teacher Use

Dialogue 2 – Answering Questions from *Form N-400, Application for Naturalization*

Instructions and Master – Card Search

Notes to the Teacher: This dialogue begins at about 6:44 on the video. In this scene, Officer Taylor is reviewing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization with the applicant, Mr. Torres. This card search activity focuses on some key questions from this scene. Cut out the key questions on the following page and attach each one to an index card to create a set of cards. Make enough sets of index cards for the number of small groups you have in class.

Instructions for the Classroom:

- Discuss the Dialogue 2 Visual, “Answering Questions from Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.”
- Tell the students that they will watch the scene twice.
- After watching it, have the students brainstorm the questions they heard.
- Hand out one set of cards to each group. The cards should be mixed up.
- Tell the students to spread the cards out on the table and when they hear the question in the scene, place that card at the top of the table.
- When they hear the next question, place that card under the top one, and so on.
- Play the scene one more time and check the students’ work as a class.

Transcript for Dialogue 2

Officer Taylor: **What is your name?**

Mr. Torres: **Marcos Torres.**

Officer Taylor: **And have you used any other names?**

Mr. Torres: **No.**

Officer Taylor: **Do you want to legally change your name?**

Mr. Torres: **No.**

Officer Taylor: **I need to see your lawful permanent resident card, all of your passports, and state-issued identification, please.**

Officer Taylor: **Thank you.**

Mr. Torres: **You’re welcome.**

Officer Taylor: **What is your date of birth?**

Mr. Torres: **November 8, 1970.**

Officer Taylor: **And where were you born?**

Mr. Torres: **San Pedro Sula, Honduras.**

Officer Taylor: **Are you a citizen of Honduras?**

Mr. Torres: **Yes.**

Officer Taylor: **Are either of your parents United States citizens?**

Mr. Torres: **No.**

Officer Taylor: **Are you currently single, married, divorced, or widowed?**

Mr. Torres: **I am single.**

Officer Taylor: **And where are you currently living?**

Mr. Torres: **3555 North Shore Boulevard in Bloomington.**

Officer Taylor: **Where are you working?**

Mr. Torres: **I work at the county library.**

Officer Taylor: **When was your last trip outside the United States?**

Mr. Torres: **Let me see. About 4 months ago I went back to Honduras to visit family for about 2 weeks.**

Officer Taylor: **Do you remember the day you returned to the United States?**

Key Questions for the Index Cards – Cut-out Master

What is your name?	Are either of your parents United States citizens?
Have you used any other names?	Are you currently single, married, divorced, or widowed?
Do you want to legally change your name?	Where are you currently living?
What is your date of birth?	Where are you working?
Where were you born?	When was your last trip outside the United States?
Are you a citizen of Honduras? (Are you a citizen of _____?)	Do you remember the day you returned to the United States?



Dialogue 2, "Answering Questions from *Form N-400, Application for Naturalization*"

Dialogue 3 – Following Instructions

Student Handout – How Many Times Did You Hear That Word?

Instructions to the Student: Read the words below with your teacher. Watch the video of the dialogue between Officer Taylor and Mr. Torres at the USCIS office. Your group will listen for specific words. As you watch, count each time you hear your words from the list. After the video, write your answer in the blank.

Setting: Officer Taylor and the applicant, Mr. Torres, review some documents together. Officer Taylor asks Mr. Torres to check the information and sign the documents.

Listen and count how many times you hear these words:



- A. _____ print
- B. _____ thank you
- C. _____ sign
- D. _____ application
- E. _____ review
- F. _____ please

Discuss these questions with your group:



1. In the video, what did Mr. Torres sign?

2. What are some things that you sign in everyday life? List as many as you can.

3. What does it mean when you sign something?

For Teacher Use

Dialogue 3 – Following Instructions

Answer Key – How Many Times Did You Hear That Word?

Notes to the Teacher: This dialogue begins at about 9:28 on the video. In this scene, Officer Taylor and the applicant, Mr. Torres, are reviewing some documents together. Officer Taylor asks Mr. Torres to check the information and sign the documents. Before using the video in class, watch the scene yourself. Note any vocabulary your students might not understand and teach that vocabulary before doing the activity.

Instructions for the Classroom:

- Discuss the Dialogue 3 Visual, “Following Instructions.”
- Distribute the handout to the students.
- Review the list of words in class, modeling the pronunciation of each word on the list.
- Have the students form pairs or small groups. Assign each group one or two words from the list.
- Tell them to count each time they hear their assigned words.
- Show the scene twice. Play it one final time so students can write their answers in the blank.

Answer Key

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| A. <u>1</u> print | D. <u>1</u> application |
| B. <u>3</u> thank you | E. <u>1</u> review |
| C. <u>5</u> sign | F. <u>3</u> please |

- Have each group answer the following discussion questions and review as a class:
 1. In the video, what did Mr. Torres sign?
 2. What are some things that you sign in everyday life? List as many as you can.
 3. What does it mean when you sign something?

Transcript for Dialogue 3

Officer Taylor: **Next, I'll need you to sign your photographs.**

Mr. Torres: **Thank you.**

Officer Taylor: **You're welcome.**

Officer Taylor: **Please sign them here and here.**

Mr. Torres: **Okay.**

Officer Taylor: **I'll need you to sign your application.**

Mr. Torres: **Okay.**

Officer Taylor: **Please sign here.**

Officer Taylor: **And then print your name and sign here.**

Officer Taylor: **Thank you.**

Mr. Torres: **Okay. You're welcome.**

Officer Taylor: **Please review this form and let me know if it's correct.**

Mr. Torres: **Okay. It's correct.**

Officer Taylor: **Great, thank you.**

Officer Taylor: **Okay, now we're going to move to the civics and reading and writing tests.**



Dialogue 3, “Following Instructions”

Dialogue 4 – Taking the Civics Test

Student Handout – What Happened?

Instructions to the Student: Review the questions below with your teacher. Watch the dialogue of the officer and the applicant in the USCIS office. When you watch the video for the first time, listen carefully and think about the questions. Then watch it one more time. Work with your partner to answer the questions below.

Setting: The USCIS officer is asking civics test questions and the applicant is answering.



What Happened?

1. What is the first civics question that the officer asks? _____
2. What is the next civics question about? Does the applicant answer it correctly?

3. What does the applicant say when the officer asks about the Statue of Liberty?

4. What capital does the officer ask about? _____
5. Does the applicant know the name of the national anthem? _____
6. What does the applicant say about the Civil War? _____
7. How many civics questions does the officer ask? _____
8. How many civics questions does the applicant answer correctly? _____
9. Does the applicant pass the civics portion of the test? _____

For Teacher Use

Dialogue 4 – Taking the Civics Test

Answer Key – What Happened?

Notes to the Teacher: This dialogue begins at about 11:32 on the video. The officer is administering the civics portion of the naturalization test to the applicant. Before using the video in class, watch the scene yourself. Note any vocabulary your students might not understand and teach that vocabulary before doing the activity.

Instructions for the Classroom:

- Discuss the Dialogue 4 Visual, “Taking the Civics Test.”
- Distribute the handout to the students.
- Review the questions together.
- Have the students form pairs or small groups.
- Tell the students to watch the scene twice without writing.
- Play the scene two times.
- Have the students work in pairs to answer the handout questions while you circulate.
- Show the scene again and go over the answers together.

Answer Key

1. What is the first civics question that the officer asks?
Who was the first President?
2. What is the next civics question about? Does the applicant answer it correctly?
How many Senators are there? Yes, she answers correctly.
3. What does the applicant say when the officer asks about the Statue of Liberty?
She says, “Can you repeat that?”
4. What capital does the officer ask about?
The capital of the United States.
5. Does the applicant know the name of the national anthem?
Yes, she does.
6. What does the applicant say about the Civil War?
She says, “I’m not sure.”
7. How many civics questions does the officer ask?
Seven civics questions.
8. How many civics questions does the applicant answer correctly?
Six correct answers.
9. Does the applicant pass the civics portion of the test?
Yes, she does.

Transcript for Dialogue 4

Officer: **Okay. Are you ready for your civics test?**

Applicant: **Yes.**

Officer: **Who was the first President?**

Applicant: **George Washington.**

Officer: **Correct.**

Officer: **How many U.S. Senators are there?**

Applicant: **100.**

Officer: **Good.**

Officer: **Where is the Statue of Liberty?**

Applicant: **Can you repeat that?**

Officer: **Where is the Statue of Liberty?**

Applicant: **In ... in New York.**

Officer: **Correct.**

Officer: **What is the capital of the United States?**

Applicant: **Washington, DC.**

Officer: **What is the name of the national anthem?**

Applicant: **Star-Spangled Banner.**

Officer: **Good.**

Officer: **Name one problem that led to the Civil War.**

Applicant: **I'm...I'm not sure. I'm not sure.**

Officer: **That's okay.**

[Host: Remember that this is just a sample interview. The questions in this video are not necessarily the ones that you will be asked during the test. At the end of the questions, the immigration officer will inform you if you've passed the history and civics test. Please note that the officer will stop asking you questions once you've answered 6 questions correctly.]

Officer: **When do we celebrate Independence Day?**

Applicant: **July 4th.**

Officer: **That's correct. Good, that's 6. You've passed that portion.**



Dialogue 4, "Taking the Civics Test"

Dialogue 5 – Taking the Reading and Writing Tests

Student Handout – Retell the Story

Instructions to the student: Before you watch this video, discuss the following questions with your teacher. Remember, the reading and writing items you will hear in this video are not on the actual test.

Setting: The officer and the applicant are in the USCIS office. The officer gives the reading and writing tests to the applicant.



Discuss these questions about the reading and writing tests:

1. For the reading test, what does the applicant have to do?
2. How many chances does the applicant get to read a sentence correctly?
3. Where can you find the list of words for the reading test?
4. For the writing test, what does the applicant have to do?
5. How many chances does the applicant get to write a sentence correctly?
6. Where can you find the list of words for the writing test?



Retell the Story

Watch the video several times. After that, tell the story to your partner in your own words. Describe what you saw in the video. Try using words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *after that* to explain what happened in the order of events. Then listen as your partner tells you the same story.

For Teacher Use

Dialogue 5 – Taking the Reading and Writing Tests

Answer Key – Retell the Story

Notes to the Teacher: This dialogue begins at about 13:36 on the video. The officer is administering the reading and writing portions of the naturalization test to the applicant. Before beginning, remind your students that the reading and writing items in this simulated dialogue are not on the actual test.

Retelling is good oral practice for the students because it gives them an opportunity to describe what happened in their own words. Meanwhile, it helps them reinforce what they saw and practice real language with a partner.

Instructions for the Classroom:

- Discuss the Dialogue 5 Visual, “Taking the Reading and Writing Tests.”
- Distribute the handout to the students.
- Review the discussion questions together.
- Have the students form pairs or small groups.
- Play the scene two times.
- Have the students work in pairs to retell the story in their own words.

As an alternative for more advanced students, try a retelling activity with “4-3-2 minute” time limits. While working in pairs, have the students retell the story the first time within a four-minute time limit. Then have them repeat the same story within three minutes; then, in two. This requires that the students improvise and paraphrase a familiar story while improving their oral fluency.

Discussion Questions

1. For the reading test, what does the applicant have to do? [Read a sentence aloud.](#)
2. How many chances does the applicant get to read the sentence correctly? [Three.](#)
3. Where can you find the list of words for the reading test? [At uscis.gov/citizenship.](https://uscis.gov/citizenship)
4. For the writing test, what does the applicant have to do? [Write a dictated sentence.](#)
5. How many chances does the applicant get to write the sentence correctly? [Three.](#)
6. Where can you find the list of words for the writing test? [At uscis.gov/citizenship.](https://uscis.gov/citizenship)

Transcript for Dialogue 5

Officer: **Now is the reading test. Please read line number 1 out loud for me.**

Applicant: **Who was third President of United States?**

Officer: **Good. Now, I need you to write line number 1 for me.**

Officer: **Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States. Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States.**

Officer: **Okay, let's try another one. On line number 2, please write, "The Liberty Bell is in Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell is in Philadelphia."**

Officer: **Good.**

[Host: After the reading and writing tests, the immigration officer will tell the results of the naturalization tests and interview.]

Officer: **Congratulations. This form is for you.**

Applicant: **Thank you. Thank you.**

Officer: **You're welcome.**

Officer: **I am recommending your application for approval. If my recommendation is accepted, you will be sent a notice in the mail of when to come in for your oath ceremony.**

Officer: **Do you have any questions at this point?**

Applicant: **No. No.**

Officer: **Great, then, I'll escort you to the customer service area.**

Applicant: **Okay. Okay. Thank you. Thank you.**

Officer: **You're welcome.**



Dialogue 5, "Taking the Reading and Writing Tests"