

# N-400 Naturalization Interview and Ceremony Guide

## The Interview

### What to bring to the interview?

- Your interview appointment notice from USCIS
- Your green card
- Your passport and any other travel documents
- A copy of your application and the original supporting documents
- If you applied for naturalization as the spouse of a U.S. citizen bring:
  - Your original marriage certificate
  - Original proof of death or divorce of your prior spouses and your current spouse's prior spouses
  - Original proof of your spouse's US citizenship
  - Updated documents showing you are currently living in marital union with your US citizen spouse (updated tax documents, bank statements, etc.)
- If you are applying for naturalization as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces bring your DD 214 or military orders.

### How to prepare for the interview?

During your interview, you will need to demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including the ability to read, write, and speak basic English.

- Your ability to speak and understand English will be determined by a USCIS officer during your eligibility interview on [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#). Study the questions on this form as the immigration officer will be asking you these very questions at your interview.

- For the reading test, you will need to read out loud one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to read in English. If you can read aloud [this list of words](#), you will be sure to pass this test.
- For the writing test, you must write one out of the three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to write in English. If you can write out [this list of words](#), you will be successful on this test.

Also, during your interview, you will need to demonstrate you have sufficient knowledge of US History and Civics. The version of the test you take depends on when USCIS receives your Form N-400.

- If USCIS receives your application **before October 20, 2025**: You will take the 2008 version. The immigration officer will ask you up to 10 questions from a list of 100 civics test questions. You will need to answer 6 questions correctly to pass this test. [Access the 2008 version here.](#)
- If USCIS receives your application **on or after October 20, 2025**: You will take the new 2025 version. The immigration officer will ask you up to 20 questions from a list of 128 civics test questions. You will need to answer 12 questions correctly to pass this test. [You can access the 2025 version here.](#)

Special Exemption for Certain Applicants: If you are 65 years or older and have been a lawful permanent resident for at least 20 years, you will take a simplified test with up to 10 questions from a list of 20 specially selected questions (marked with an asterisk in the study materials). You need to answer 6 of the 10 questions correctly to pass. You can choose to study either the 2008 or 2025 version of these 20 questions and may take the test in the language of your choice. [View the 20 questions for the 2008 version here](#), or [view the questions with asterisks in the 2025 version here](#).

## Common words and phrases used in the interview

The following words and phrases will likely come up during your interview. Being familiar with these will increase the likelihood that you have a successful interview.

- “Raise your right hand” - At the beginning of the interview, the USCIS will place you under oath which requires you to raise your right hand.
- “Have you ever *claimed* to be a U.S. citizen?” - The officer is not asking if you want to be a citizen of the U.S.; rather, the officer is asking if you have ever said or written that you were a U.S. citizen when you really were not a U.S. citizen. In other words, the officer is asking if you have ever lied about being a U.S. citizen.
- “Oath of Allegiance” - The officer will ask you if you agree with and are willing to take the oath of allegiance. The officer will also have you sign your name on the Form N-400 acknowledging your willingness to take the oath of allegiance. It’s a good idea to be familiar with this phrase and to know what the oath of allegiance really is. More on this below.
- Questions on the N-400. The USCIS officer will ask most, if not all, questions on the N-400. You will need to understand the meaning of the questions to successfully complete your interview.

## The Naturalization Ceremony

After successfully completing the naturalization interview, you will be invited to take the Oath of Allegiance at the Naturalization Ceremony. Usually, you will be with other candidates for citizenship and a designated USCIS employee or a judge will administer the oath of allegiance. After taking the oath of allegiance, you become a U.S. citizen. Yay!

### What should I bring to the naturalization ceremony?

- Your green card. The officer will take your green card from you and you will not be getting it back.
- Your Notice of Naturalization Ceremony (N-445). Be sure to fill out the questions included with this notice before you check-in at your ceremony.

### What is the oath of allegiance?

To become a citizen the final requirement is that you take the Oath of Allegiance. An oath is a solemn promise. You promise you will do the following things:

- To give up all loyalty to leaders and governments of other countries where I was a subject or citizen,
- To support and defend the laws and constitution of the United States of America,
- To be loyal to the United States of America only,
- Bear arms (fight, go to battle) for the U.S. when required by the law,
- Perform non-combatant service (serve in the military in a non-fighting role) in the military when required by the law,
- Perform work of national importance when required by the law.

A judge or designated USCIS employee will administer the oath of allegiance. You will be asked to stand and raise your right hand and repeat the oath of allegiance. The oath of allegiance is as follows:

*I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.*