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## **McCain picks female running mate**

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## THE ARTICLE

The U.S. presidential campaign took a surprise turn on Friday night with John McCain's selection of his running mate. McCain, who was celebrating his 72nd birthday, picked the little-known governor of Alaska Sarah Palin to run as his vice-president. Many view McCain's choice as a huge gamble, while others see it as a wise selection. Democrats immediately accused McCain of double standards. He has spent the whole summer attacking Barack Obama for being too young and inexperienced. Sarah Palin, at 44, is even younger than Obama and has almost no political experience. She served as mayor of a town in Alaska with a population of less than 10,000, and has spent 18 months as Alaskan governor. In November, she could be one step away from the most powerful job in the world.

John McCain explained to Republican delegates why he chose Palin: "She's exactly who I need. She's exactly who this country needs to help me fight the same old Washington politics of me first and country second," McCain told 15,000 supporters. Palin seemed to be a popular choice with conservatives. She is pro-life, a working-class mother of five and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. She is also prepared to drill for oil in Alaska's protected seas. Republicans will be hoping she can attract many female voters. It is the first time the Republican Party has chosen a woman to run for the White House. Palin now has to convince Americans she's up for the job of vice-president. Only one month ago, she asked in a televised interview: "What is it exactly that a VP does every day?"

# WARM-UPS

**1. ELECTIONS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about elections. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*U.S. Presidents / campaigns / birthdays / gambles / double standards / inexperience / explanations / politics / popular choices / working class / voters / televised interviews*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. RUNNING MATES:** What kind of people would you like to be your partner? Complete the table below. Write your reasons why. Change partners and share your ideas.

Partner	What they need	Why?
In marriage		
In business		
In English class		
With my hobby		
When travelling		
Other _____		

**4. AND THE WINNER IS...:** Students A strongly believe John McCain will be the next U.S. President; Students B strongly believe Barack Obama will be the next U.S. President. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

**5. WHAT'S IMPORTANT?:** What's important for the leader of a country? Rank the following in order of importance. Change partners to share and discuss your ranking.

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Intelligence                 | _____ Energy                    |
| _____ Charisma                     | _____ Ideas                     |
| _____ Experience                   | _____ Good looks                |
| _____ Knowledge of foreign affairs | _____ Support from the military |

**6. CAMPAIGN:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'campaign'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. U.S. presidential candidate John McCain has found a jogging partner. T / F
- b. Sarah Palin has political experience in the state of Alaska. T / F
- c. McCain believes his rival Barack Obama is too young to be President. T / F
- d. Sarah Palin has around eighteen years of political experience. T / F
- e. John McCain told Americans Sarah Palin is exactly who the USA needs. T / F
- f. Sarah Palin is not in favour of abortion. T / F
- g. Sarah Palin is a conservationist who wants to protect all the oceans. T / F
- h. Palin said on TV she knew everything about the vice-president's job. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. turn       | a. ready               |
| 2. selection  | b. criticizing         |
| 3. gamble     | c. just                |
| 4. attacking  | d. fans                |
| 5. served     | e. choice              |
| 6. exactly    | f. win over            |
| 7. supporters | g. worked              |
| 8. prepared   | h. change of direction |
| 9. attract    | i. persuade            |
| 10. convince  | j. risk                |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The U.S. presidential campaign took | a. standards                 |
| 2. the little-                         | b. for oil                   |
| 3. accused McCain of double            | c. I need                    |
| 4. She served as                       | d. many female voters        |
| 5. she could be one                    | e. a surprise turn           |
| 6. She's exactly who                   | f. for the job               |
| 7. Palin seemed to be a popular        | g. mayor of a town in Alaska |
| 8. prepared to drill                   | h. step away                 |
| 9. she can attract                     | i. known governor of Alaska  |
| 10. convince Americans she's up        | j. choice with conservatives |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The U.S. presidential campaign took a surprise \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday night with John McCain's selection of his running mate. McCain, who was \_\_\_\_\_ his 72nd birthday, picked the little-known governor of Alaska Sarah Palin to \_\_\_\_\_ as his vice-president. Many view McCain's choice as a huge \_\_\_\_\_, while others see it as a wise selection. Democrats immediately accused McCain of \_\_\_\_\_ standards. He has spent the whole summer attacking Barack Obama for being too \_\_\_\_\_ and inexperienced. Sarah Palin, at 44, is even younger than Obama and has almost no political experience. She \_\_\_\_\_ as mayor of a town in Alaska with a population of less than 10,000, and has spent 18 months as Alaskan governor. In November, she could be one \_\_\_\_\_ away from the most powerful job in the world.

John McCain explained to Republican delegates why he \_\_\_\_\_ Palin: "She's exactly who I need. She's exactly who this country needs to help me \_\_\_\_\_ the same old Washington politics of me first and country \_\_\_\_\_," McCain told 15,000 supporters. Palin seemed to be a popular choice with conservatives. She is pro-life, a working-class \_\_\_\_\_ of five and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. She is also prepared to drill for oil in Alaska's protected \_\_\_\_\_. Republicans will be hoping she can attract many female voters. It is the first time the Republican Party has \_\_\_\_\_ a woman to run for the White House. Palin now has to convince Americans she's up for the \_\_\_\_\_ of vice-president. Only one month ago, she asked in a televised interview: "What is it \_\_\_\_\_ that a VP does every day?"

*double*

*run*

*step*

*turn*

*young*

*gamble*

*celebrating*

*served*

*seas*

*fight*

*mother*

*exactly*

*chose*

*chosen*

*job*

*second*

## **LISTENING:** Listen and fill in the spaces.

The U.S. presidential campaign \_\_\_\_\_ turn on Friday night with John McCain's selection of his running mate. McCain, \_\_\_\_\_ his 72nd birthday, picked the little-known governor of Alaska Sarah Palin \_\_\_\_\_ vice-president. Many view McCain's choice as a huge gamble, while others \_\_\_\_\_ selection. Democrats immediately accused McCain of double standards. He has spent the whole summer attacking Barack Obama \_\_\_\_\_ and inexperienced. Sarah Palin, at 44, is even younger than Obama and has almost no political experience. She \_\_\_\_\_ of a town in Alaska with a population of less than 10,000, and has spent 18 months as Alaskan governor. In November, she could \_\_\_\_\_ from the most powerful job in the world.

John McCain explained to Republican delegates \_\_\_\_\_ Palin: "She's exactly who I need. She's exactly who this country \_\_\_\_\_ me fight the same old Washington politics of me first and country second," McCain told 15,000 supporters. Palin \_\_\_\_\_ popular choice with conservatives. She is pro-life, a working-class mother of five \_\_\_\_\_ member of the National Rifle Association. She is also prepared to drill for oil in Alaska's protected seas. Republicans will be hoping \_\_\_\_\_ many female voters. It is the first time the Republican Party has chosen a woman to run for the White House. Palin now has to convince Americans \_\_\_\_\_ job of vice-president. Only one month ago, she asked in a televised interview: "What \_\_\_\_\_ a VP does every day?"

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'vice' and 'president'.

<b>vice</b>	<b>president</b>
-------------	------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• turn</li><li>• celebrating</li><li>• huge</li><li>• summer</li><li>• served</li><li>• one step</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• delegates</li><li>• fight</li><li>• pro</li><li>• oil</li><li>• chosen</li><li>• interview</li></ul>
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# STUDENT ELECTION SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about elections in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# ELECTION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'U.S. President'?
- c) Have you been following the U.S. Presidential campaign?
- d) What do you think of John McCain?
- e) Do you think McCain choosing Sarah Palin is a safe bet or huge gamble?
- f) Do you think John McCain is too old to be president?
- g) What do you think of McCain for accusing Barack Obama of being too young and inexperienced?
- h) What do you think of Sarah Palin's qualifications to be vice-president?
- i) If McCain becomes president and then dies, Palin would be America's leader. What do you think of this?
- j) What do you know about Sarah Palin?

*McCain picks female running mate - 31st August, 2008*  
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# ELECTION DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think Sarah Palin is exactly who John McCain needs?
- c) Do you think Washington politics will change if McCain and Palin win the election?
- d) Would you vote for McCain and Palin?
- e) Do you think Barack Obama should have chosen Hillary Clinton as his running mate?
- f) Would a woman vice-president change anything in America?
- g) Do you think Sarah Palin will do well during the election campaign?
- h) What exactly is it a VP does every day?
- i) Are American elections similar to your country's elections?
- j) What questions would you like to ask John McCain and Sarah Palin?

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# LANGUAGE

The U.S. presidential campaign took a surprise (1) \_\_\_\_ on Friday night with John McCain's selection of his running mate. McCain, who was celebrating his 72nd birthday, picked the (2) \_\_\_\_ -known governor of Alaska Sarah Palin to run as his vice-president. Many view McCain's choice as a huge (3) \_\_\_\_, while others see it as a wise selection. Democrats immediately accused McCain of double standards. He has spent the (4) \_\_\_\_ summer attacking Barack Obama for being too young and inexperienced. Sarah Palin, at 44, is even younger than Obama and has almost (5) \_\_\_\_ political experience. She served as mayor of a town in Alaska with a population of less than 10,000, and has spent 18 months as Alaskan governor. In November, she could be one (6) \_\_\_\_ away from the most powerful job in the world.

John McCain explained to Republican delegates why he chose Palin: "She's exactly who I need. She's exactly who this country needs to help me fight the same (7) \_\_\_\_ Washington politics of me first and country second," McCain told 15,000 supporters. Palin seemed to be a popular choice with conservatives. She is (8) \_\_\_\_ -life, a working-class mother of (9) \_\_\_\_ and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. She is also prepared to drill for oil in Alaska's (10) \_\_\_\_ seas. Republicans will be hoping she can attract many female voters. It is the first time the Republican Party has chosen a woman to run for the White House. Palin now has to convince Americans she's (11) \_\_\_\_ for the job of vice-president. Only one month ago, she asked in a (12) \_\_\_\_ interview: "What is it exactly that a VP does every day?"

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |               |               |                |                 |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) turn      | (b) turn off  | (c) turned     | (d) turns       |
| 2.  | (a) tiny      | (b) little    | (c) small      | (d) miniscule   |
| 3.  | (a) gambler   | (b) gambling  | (c) gamble     | (d) gaming      |
| 4.  | (a) most      | (b) every     | (c) all        | (d) whole       |
| 5.  | (a) non       | (b) never     | (c) none       | (d) no          |
| 6.  | (a) stair     | (b) chair     | (c) step       | (d) ladder      |
| 7.  | (a) old       | (b) elderly   | (c) antique    | (d) senior      |
| 8.  | (a) grow      | (b) pro       | (c) so         | (d) fro         |
| 9.  | (a) fifth     | (b) quintet   | (c) five       | (d) fivesome    |
| 10. | (a) protected | (b) protect   | (c) protection | (d) protector   |
| 11. | (a) by        | (b) with      | (c) down       | (d) up          |
| 12. | (a) televise  | (b) televised | (c) televising | (d) televisions |



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about the nominees for the U.S. Presidential election. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. PRESIDENTS:** Make a poster about some previous Presidents of the USA. What are the key features and selling points? Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. McCAIN VERSUS OBAMA:** Write a magazine article about the rivalry between McCain and Obama. Include imaginary interviews with both politicians.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to John McCain. Ask him three questions about Sarah Palin. Make three suggestions on what he should do to win the U.S. Presidential election in November. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

**6. DIARY / JOURNAL:** You are running for president of your country. Write about one day in your campaign. What do you think of your rivals? Read your entry to your classmates in the next lesson.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. T      c. T      d. F      e. T      f. T      g. F      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. turn       | a. change of direction |
| 2. selection  | b. choice              |
| 3. gamble     | c. risk                |
| 4. attacking  | d. criticizing         |
| 5. served     | e. worked              |
| 6. exactly    | f. just                |
| 7. supporters | g. fans                |
| 8. prepared   | h. ready               |
| 9. attract    | i. persuade            |
| 10. convince  | j. win over            |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The U.S. presidential campaign took | a. a surprise turn           |
| 2. the little-                         | b. known governor of Alaska  |
| 3. accused McCain of double            | c. standards                 |
| 4. She served as                       | d. mayor of a town in Alaska |
| 5. she could be one                    | e. step away                 |
| 6. She's exactly who                   | f. I need                    |
| 7. Palin seemed to be a popular        | g. choice with conservatives |
| 8. prepared to drill                   | h. for oil                   |
| 9. she can attract                     | i. many female voters        |
| 10. convince Americans she's up        | j. for the job               |

## GAP FILL:

### McCain picks female running mate

The U.S. presidential campaign took a surprise **turn** on Friday night with John McCain's selection of his running mate. McCain, who was **celebrating** his 72nd birthday, picked the little-known governor of Alaska Sarah Palin to **run** as his vice-president. Many view McCain's choice as a huge **gamble**, while others see it as a wise selection. Democrats immediately accused McCain of **double** standards. He has spent the whole summer attacking Barack Obama for being too **young** and inexperienced. Sarah Palin, at 44, is even younger than Obama and has almost no political experience. She **served** as mayor of a town in Alaska with a population of less than 10,000, and has spent 18 months as Alaskan governor. In November, she could be one **step** away from the most powerful job in the world.

John McCain explained to Republican delegates why he **chose** Palin: "She's exactly who I need. She's exactly who this country needs to help me **fight** the same old Washington politics of me first and country **second**," McCain told 15,000 supporters. Palin seemed to be a popular choice with conservatives. She is pro-life, a working-class **mother** of five and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. She is also prepared to drill for oil in Alaska's protected **seas**. Republicans will be hoping she can attract many female voters. It is the first time the Republican Party has **chosen** a woman to run for the White House. Palin now has to convince Americans she's up for the **job** of vice-president. Only one month ago, she asked in a televised interview: "What is it **exactly** that a VP does every day?"

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a    2 - b    3 - c    4 - d    5 - d    6 - c    7 - a    8 - b    9 - c    10 - a    11 - d    12 - b