

Argentina's president warns of economic "shock treatment"

14th December 2023



Argentina has a new president. His name is Javier Milei. He was a surprise winner of the country's election in November. Mr Milei has promised to turn around Argentina's poor economy. In particular, he said he would cut inflation, which is currently around 140 per cent. He also wants to slash the public debt. Argentina has borrowed a lot of money in the past few decades. Mr Milei wants to start repaying it. In his first speech as president, he said the economy needed "shock treatment" to recover. He said previous governments had spent too much and that "there is no money left". He warned Argentinians that life would be tough for a few years. He said people would have to live in "austerity" to help the economy.

Javier Milei is different from any politician Argentina has seen before. He is a far-right politician. Many people say he is similar to former US President Donald Trump and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. During Milei's election campaign, he was often seen with a chainsaw. He wanted people to know he would make many spending cuts to the economy. He called his election victory a turning point in Argentina's history, like the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. He has promised to limit abortion rights and relax gun laws. He has also upset environmentalists because he does not believe in climate change. He said: "We know that in the short term, the situation will worsen, but then we will see the fruits of our efforts."

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) / [voanews.com](https://www.voanews.com)

Writing

Being president is the best job in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

president / surprise / winner / economy / inflation / debt / shock treatment / austerity / politician / far right / election / campaign / victory / rights / gun laws / fruits / efforts

True / False

- 1) No one was surprised that Javier Milei became president of Argentina. T / F
- 2) The inflation rate in Argentina is around 140 per cent. T / F
- 3) The article says Argentina has borrowed a lot of money since 1940. T / F
- 4) Javier Milei said life in Argentina would be tough for a year. T / F
- 5) Javier Milei is a politician who is on the far left. T / F
- 6) Javier Milei took a chainsaw with him on the election campaign trail. T / F
- 7) Javier Milei likened his election victory to the fall of the Berlin Wall. T / F
- 8) Javier Milei told Argentinians they should eat more fruit. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. surprise | a. former |
| 2. promised | b. win |
| 3. cut | c. vowed |
| 4. recover | d. go downhill |
| 5. previous | e. angered |
| 6. similar | f. improve |
| 7. victory | g. shock |
| 8. turning point | h. reduce |
| 9. upset | i. crossroads |
| 10. worsen | j. like |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Do you think you'd be a good president?
- c) What kinds of politicians do you like?
- d) What are the differences between far-right and far-left politicians?
- e) What do you think of politicians with chainsaws?
- f) How do you think Javier Milei will do?
- g) What advice do you have for Javier Milei?
- h) What questions would you like to ask President Javier Milei?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. He was a surprise winner of the | a. point |
| 2. Milei has promised to turn around | b. debt |
| 3. He also wants to slash the public | c. to help the economy |
| 4. Argentina has borrowed a lot of money | d. will worsen |
| 5. people would have to live in "austerity" | e. in the past few decades |
| 6. He is a far- | f. of the Berlin Wall |
| 7. his election victory a turning | g. country's election |
| 8. the fall | h. of our efforts |
| 9. in the short term, the situation | i. right politician |
| 10. we will see the fruits | j. Argentina's poor economy |

Discussion – Student B

- Would you like to be president?
- What do you know about Javier Milei?
- What do you think of your country's leader?
- Why is it important to cut inflation?
- What do you think of debt?
- What do you think of the idea of 'shock treatment' for an economy?
- How tough is life for you?
- Have you ever had to live in austerity?

Spelling

- a psruseir winner
- he said he would cut tfnloaiin
- He also wants to slash the public edtb
- in the past few eescdad
- rivpseuo governments
- live in tuareytsi
- He is a far-right ilpiicatno
- he is imarlsi to former US President Trump
- election nacpaigm
- election cotvyri
- He has promised to limit riotnabo rights
- in the short term, the situation will nrweos

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. c	3. h	4. f	5. a
6. j	7. b	8. i	9. e	10. d

Role Play

Role A – President

You think a president is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock star, astronaut or social media influencer.

Role B – Rock Star

You think a rock star is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): president, astronaut or social media influencer.

Role C – Astronaut

You think an astronaut is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock star, president or social media influencer.

Role D – Social Media Influencer

You think a social media influencer is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock star, astronaut or president.

Speaking – Jobs

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| • President | • Influencer |
| • CEO | • Army general |
| • Team coach | • Astronaut |
| • Rock star | • Scientist |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.