

US Citizenship Test:

N-400 Yes or No questions Vocabulary



Answering “yes” or “no” on your N-400 form isn’t enough. During your citizenship interview, the USCIS officer might ask you to explain a word or phrase from the form. They want to be sure you truly understand each question—not just guess or answer without thinking.

That’s why it’s so important to study the vocabulary used in these yes-or-no questions, especially in **Section 9** of the form.

This guide includes a full list of the **37 yes/no questions from Section 9 of the N-400**, along with simple definitions for key vocabulary. Use it to study, practice, and feel confident when it’s time for your interview.

But remember, you can practice everything that happens during your interview with Citizen Now: the civics test, the English test, and the N-400 questions, including these “Have you ever...” questions and their vocabulary. Best of all, everything comes with audio so you can get used to the real pronunciation and sound of English during the interview.

[Download Citizen Now](#) and join the thousands of people who’ve used it to pass their interviews.

Question	Vocabulary
1. Have you EVER claimed to be a U.S. citizen (in writing or any other way)?	Have you ever: In your lifetime. Claim to be a U.S. citizen: To state you are a U.S. citizen.
2. Have you EVER registered to vote or voted in any Federal, state, or local election in the United States?	Register: To sign up. Federal: U.S. government. Vote: To elect new leaders.
3. Do you currently owe any overdue Federal, state, or local taxes in the United States?	Owe taxes: To owe the government money Overdue: Passed a deadline (like unpaid taxes)

<p>4. Since becoming a lawful permanent resident, have you called yourself a "nonresident" on a tax return or failed to file a tax return because you considered yourself a nonresident?</p>	<p>Lawful permanent resident: A non-citizen legally allowed to live and work in the U.S. permanently.</p> <p>Nonresident alien: Someone who is not a U.S. citizen.</p> <p>File a tax return: To send tax paperwork to the government.</p>
<p>Question 5. Have you EVER</p>	
<p>been a member of, or associated with, any Communist or totalitarian party, or advocated the overthrow of any government?</p> <p>Advocated any of the following, or been a member of, involved in, or in any way associated with any group anywhere in the world that advocated any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opposition to all organized government; ● World communism; ● The establishment in the United States of a totalitarian dictatorship; ● The overthrow by force or violence or other unconstitutional means of the Government of the United States or all forms of law; ● The unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers of the Government of the United States or of any other organized government because of their official character; ● The unlawful damage, injury, or destruction of property; or ● Sabotage? 	<p>Communist Party: A political group that thinks the government should own and run everything. Like in China or North Korea.</p> <p>Totalitarian party: Government controls everything; people have no power.</p> <p>Overthrow: To remove a government from power.</p> <p>Advocate: Support and promote.</p> <p>Unconstitutional: Against the rules of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>Sabotage: To destroy something.</p>
<p>6- Have you EVER been a member of, involved in, or in any way associated with, or</p>	<p>Weapon: something used to fight such as a gun, knife, or bomb.</p>

have you EVER provided money, a thing of value, services or labor, or any other assistance or support to a group that:

- Used a weapon or explosive with intent to harm another person or cause damage to property?
- Engaged in kidnapping, assassination, or hijacking or sabotage of an airplane, ship, vehicle, or other mode of transportation?
- Threatened, attempted, conspired, prepared, planned, advocated for, or incited others to commit any of the acts listed before?

Kidnap: To take someone away illegally.

Assassination: Killing someone famous or important.

Hijack: To stop and steal a vehicle like an airplane or ship.

Attempted: Tried.

Threaten: To say you will harm someone.

Conspire: Planned with others.

Incite: To encourage.

7. Have you **EVER** ordered, incited, called for, committed, assisted, helped with, or otherwise participated in any of the following:

- Torture?
- Genocide?
- Killing or trying to kill any person?
- Intentionally and severely injuring or trying to injure any person?
- Any kind of sexual contact or activity with any person who did not consent or was unable to consent, or was being forced or threatened by you or by someone else?
- Not letting someone practice their religion?
- Causing harm or suffering to any person because of their race, religion, national origin, membership

Torture: To hurt someone for punishment or to get information.

Genocide: The intentional killing of a specific race or group of people.

Consent: Saying it's okay to do something.

Unable to consent: Cannot agree.

<p>in a particular social group, or political opinion?</p>	
<p>Question 8. Have you EVER</p>	
<p>a. served in, been a member of, or assisted any military or police unit?</p>	<p>Military unit: A group of people that work for a government to fight in a war.</p>
<p>b. served in, been a member of, assisted , or participated in any armed group, for example: paramilitary unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, rebel group, or guerrilla group?</p>	<p>Armed group: A group that carries weapons.</p> <p>Paramilitary unit: Like a military group but not official.</p> <p>Self-defense unit: A group of people organized to protect their community against crime & violence.</p> <p>Vigilante unit: A group that acts like the police but is not official.</p> <p>Rebel group: Group who fights against a government.</p> <p>Guerrilla group: Uses weapons to attack the government.</p>
<p>9. Have you EVER worked, volunteered, or otherwise served in a place where people were detained , for example, a prison, jail, prison camp, detention facility, or labor camp, or have you EVER directed or participated in any other activity that involved detaining people?</p>	<p>Detained: Held in custody by police.</p> <p>Prison/Jail: A place where prisoners are kept.</p> <p>Prison camp: A place to keep enemy soldiers.</p> <p>Detention facility: A place where people are forced to stay.</p> <p>Labor camp: A place to force people to work.</p>

Question 10	
a. Were you EVER a part of any group, or did you EVER help any group, unit, or organization that used a weapon against any person, or threatened to do so?	
b. If you answered " Yes " to Item Number 10.a., when you were part of this group, or when you helped this group, did you ever use a weapon against another person?	
c. If yes, did you ever threaten another person with a weapon?	
11. Have you EVER sold, provided, or transported weapons, or assisted any person in selling, providing, or transporting weapons, which you knew or believed would be used against another person?	
12. Have you EVER received any weapons training, paramilitary training, or other military-type training?	Military-type training: Learning to fight in combat.
13. Have you EVER recruited, enlisted, conscripted, or used any person under 15 years of age to serve in or help an armed group, or attempted or worked with others to do so?	<p>Recruit: Convince, or make people join a group.</p> <p>Enlist: Sign up.</p> <p>Conscript: To require someone to join the army.</p>
14. Have you EVER used any person under 15 years of age to take part in hostilities or attempted or worked with others to do so?	<p>Providing services related to combat: Services such as serving as a messenger or transporting supplies.</p>

<p>This could include participating in combat or providing services related to combat.</p>	
<p>Question 15 Have you EVER</p>	
<p>a. committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested?</p>	<p>Crime: An action that breaks the law.</p> <p>Offense: A minor crime.</p> <p>Arrested: Handcuffed by the police.</p>
<p>b. been arrested, cited, detained, or charged with a crime or offense?</p>	<p>Cited: Given a ticket by police.</p> <p>Charged: Police tell you that you did something illegal.</p>
<p>16. If you received a suspended sentence, were placed on probation, or were paroled, have you completed your suspended sentence, probation, or parole?</p>	<p>Suspended sentence: Jail time is postponed if you meet court conditions.</p> <p>Probation: When you are supervised by a court or officer instead of spending time in jail.</p> <p>Paroled: When you are allowed to leave prison early.</p>
<p>Question 17 Have you EVER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged in prostitution, attempted to procure or import prostitutes or persons for the purpose of prostitution, or received any proceeds or money from prostitution? • Manufactured, cultivated, produced, distributed, dispensed, sold, or smuggled any controlled substances, illegal drugs, narcotics, or drug paraphernalia in violation of 	<p>Prostitution: To have sex for money.</p> <p>Procure: To find someone for sex.</p> <p>Smuggle: Bringing people or things across the border illegally.</p> <p>Dispense: To allow someone to skip a rule or requirement.</p> <p>Controlled substance: Drugs you can only get with a doctor's permission or illegal drugs.</p>

<p>any law or regulation of a U.S. state, the United States, or a foreign country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been married to more than one person at the same time? • Married someone in order to obtain an immigration benefit? • Helped anyone to enter, or try to enter, the United States illegally? • Gambled illegally or received income from illegal gambling? • Failed to support your dependents or to pay alimony ? • Made any misrepresentation to obtain any public benefit in the United States? 	<p>Narcotics: Illegal drugs like heroin or cocaine.</p> <p>Drug paraphernalia: Tools or items used for making, using, or hiding illegal drugs.</p> <p>Married: Having a husband or wife.</p> <p>Immigration benefit: Things like a Visa, green card, or citizenship.</p> <p>Illegal gambling: Betting money on games against the law.</p> <p>Support Dependents: Pay child support.</p> <p>Pay alimony: To pay money to an ex-spouse after a divorce.</p> <p>Misrepresentation: To lie or give wrong information.</p> <p>Public benefit: Welfare like food stamps.</p>
<p>18. Have you EVER given any U.S. Government officials any information or documentation that was false, fraudulent, or misleading?</p>	<p>False: Not true.</p> <p>Fraudulent: To claim something that is not true.</p>
<p>19. Have you EVER lied to any U.S. Government officials to gain entry or admission into the United States or to gain immigration benefits while in the United States?</p>	
<p>20. Have you EVER been placed in removal, rescission, or deportation proceedings?</p>	<p>Rescission: The government cancels a person's legal status to enter or live in the</p>

	U.S. after permission had been originally given.
21. Have you EVER been removed or deported from the United States?	Deport or remove: To force a person to leave a country.
Questions 22 (22a-22c are for male applicants only)	
a. Are you a male who lived in the United States at any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays?	
b. If you answered " Yes ," to Item Number 22.a., did you register for the Selective Service?	Selective Service: Mandatory registration for potential military draft.
c. If you answered " Yes ," to Item Number 22.b., provide information about your registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date Registered ● Selective Service Number 	
23. Have you EVER left the United States to avoid being drafted in the U.S. armed forces?	Drafted in the U.S. armed forces: Being selected as a soldier.
24. Have you EVER applied for any kind of exemption from military service in the U.S. armed forces?	Exemption: To not have to do something.
25. Have you EVER served in the U.S. armed forces?	
Questions 26 to 29 are for applicants that have served in the US Armed Forces. Go to	

question 30 if you haven't served in the US Armed Forces!	
26a Are you currently a member of the U.S. armed forces?	
26b. If you answered " Yes " to Item Number 26.a., are you scheduled to deploy outside the United States, including to a vessel, within the next 3 months?	Deploy: To move soldiers to a new place so they can be ready.
26c. If you answered " Yes ," to Item Number 26.a., are you currently stationed outside the United States?	Stationed: A soldier stays in one place for some time as part of their job.
26d. If you answered " No " to Item Number 26.a., are you a former U.S. military service member who is currently residing outside of the U.S.?	
27. Have you EVER been court-martialed or have you received a discharge characterized as other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable, while in the U.S. armed forces?	<p>Been court-martialed: Go to a military court.</p> <p>Discharge: A soldier leaves the military and stops being a soldier.</p> <p>Dishonorable: Shameful or disgraceful behavior.</p>
28. Have you EVER been discharged from training or service in the U.S. armed forces because you were an alien?	Alien: Someone who is not a U.S. citizen.
29. Have you EVER deserted from the U.S. armed forces?	Desert: Leave the military without permission.

<p>30a. Do you now have, or did you EVER have, a hereditary title or an order of nobility in any foreign country?</p>	<p>Hereditary title: A royal title like Prince or Princess.</p> <p>Order of nobility: Like king or queen.</p>
<p>30b. If you answered "Yes", to Item Number 30 a, are you willing to give up any inherited titles or orders of nobility that you have in a foreign country at your naturalization ceremony?</p>	<p>Naturalization ceremony: When immigrants take the Oath of Allegiance and become U.S. citizens.</p>
<p>31. Do you support the Constitution and Form of Government of the United States?</p>	<p>Constitution: The supreme law of the land.</p> <p>Form of government of the U.S.: Republic.</p>
<p>32. Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?</p>	<p>Oath of Allegiance: A promise to be loyal to the United States.</p>
<p>33. Are you unable to take the Oath of Allegiance because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment?</p>	<p>Physical or developmental disability: Anything about your body or mind that makes it difficult to do things, like blindness.</p> <p>Mental impairment: When someone's brain works differently, making some tasks challenging.</p>
<p>34. Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?</p>	
<p>35. If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms (carry weapons) on behalf of the United States?</p>	<p>Bear arms: Carry weapons.</p>
<p>36. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. armed forces?</p>	<p>Noncombatant services: Services that do not involve combat: like nursing and cooking.</p>

37. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction?

Work of national importance: Tasks important to a nation (e.g., helping after a disaster).

Under civilian direction: Follow the orders of non-military safety officers. Like the Red Cross.