

KEY**The Rocky Road to the White House**

Back at the beginning of 2024, it looked like this year's presidential race was going to be very predictable, and somewhat boring, a replay of 2020. Boy, was that wrong! One candidate, Joe Biden, pulled out after a disastrous first TV debate, which was held untraditionally before the summer. Another, Donald Trump, has been the target of two apparent assassination attempts. And against all odds, latecomer Kamala Harris has created real momentum.

In the spring, despite his popularity with voters, Donald Trump was mired in several legal cases, and was found guilty in June of fraud.

More and more concerns were expressed about [Biden's] physical and mental capacity to serve a second term. Finally, on 21 July, he withdrew his candidacy and endorsed his Vice-President Kamala Harris.

After her nomination, Harris, and her newly named running mate Tim Walz, quickly began to rise in popularity in opinion polls. On 10 September, Harris was widely considered to have won her TV debate with Donald Trump. The Trump camp then refused to accept the traditional second presidential debate.

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<https://www.speakeasy-news.com/the-rocky-road-to-the-white-house/>

Work on words.**1. Search the text for the English translations for :**

- prévisible : **predictable**
- ennuyeux : **boring**
- (se) retirer x 2 : **pull out / withdraw**
- malgré : **despite**
- être empêtré dans : **be mired in**
- mandat : **term**
- sondage / estimation : **poll**

2. Find synonyms for the following words in the text :

- catastrophic (adj) = **disastrous**
- support (v) = **endorse**
- victim (n) = **target**

Comprehension**1. Pick 2 events showing the 2024-election is not boring at all.**


⇒ **'One candidate, Joe Biden, pulled out after a disastrous first TV debate'**

⇒ **'Donald Trump, has been the target of two apparent assassination attempts'**

2. Fill in the grid.

Final candidates' names	Obstacles to victory
Donald Trump	Guilty of fraud
Kamala Harris	Latecomer


Read these excerpts from Kamala Harris's official Facebook page.



Kamala Harris
@KamalaHarris

The most practical thing we can do is cut taxes for working and middle-class families.


That is what [@Tim_Walz](#) and I will do.



Kamala Harris
@KamalaHarris


We will work with builders and developers to construct three million new homes and rentals.

And we will help first-time buyers get their foot in the door with \$25,000 down payment assistance.



Kamala Harris
@KamalaHarris


When I'm president, we will double the number of registered apprenticeships.



Kamala Harris
@KamalaHarris


No one who grows up in America's greatest industrial or agricultural centers should be abandoned.

We will offer tax credits to strengthen factory towns—retooling existing factories, hiring locally, and adding good union jobs.



Kamala Harris
@KamalaHarris

As president, I will increase the start-up deduction by 10 times, to \$50,000—and provide low and no-interest loans to small businesses that want to expand.



Kamala Harris
@KamalaHarris

I will cut taxes for 100 million Americans—and if you are making less than \$400,000 a year, your taxes will not go up.

Work on words.

Search the text for the English translations for :

- réduire les impôts : **cut taxes**
- location : **rentals**
- (contrat d')apprentissage : **registered apprenticeship**
- embaucher : **hiring**
- augmenter : **increase**
- emprunt / prêt financier : **loan**

Comprehension.

1. What issues does Kamala Harris address in these Facebook posts ? Tick the correct answers.

- ☐ immigration
- ☐ healthcare
- ☐ criminality
- ☐ foreign policy
- ☒ education
- ☐ environment
- ☒ economy
- ☒ housing
- ☐ national security
- ☒ employment
- ☐ law and order

2. Spot and highlight key ideas in Harris's program.

Now, think !

Repérez dans le texte un mot répété qui permet d'exprimer une prédiction ? **will**

Quel mot permet d'exprimer ... - une hypothèse ? **if** - une certitude (datée) ? **when**

Repérez et classez dans chaque colonne du tableau une ou deux phrases, selon qu'elles expriment une prédiction seule, une hypothèse future ou une certitude future.

Prédiction seule	Hypothèse future	Certitude future
When I'm president, we will double the number of registered apprenticeships?	'[...] if you are making less than \$400.000 a year, your taxes will not go up.'	'We will work with builders and developers to construct three million new homes and rentals.' 'We will offer tax credits to strengthen factory towns.'